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CONTENTS

19 July 1994

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Jordan, Israel Continue Talks in Wadi al-'Arabah ... 1
  Discuss Border, Security, Water *[Amman Radio]* ... 1
  Delegates Hold News Conference *[Amman Radio]* ... 1
  'Little Advance' Noted *[JORDAN TIMES 19 Jul]* ... 4
  2d Day of Talks Begin *[Amman Radio]* ... 5
Talks on Empowerment Resume, Emphasize Education *[MENA]* ... 5

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief Comments on Saddam's Reconciliation Call *[MENA]* ... 5
Contacts Promote Iraq-Kuwait Reconciliation *[MENA]* ... 6
'Abd-al-Majid, Envoy Discuss Libya-West Crisis *[MENA]* ... 6

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 12 Jul ... 6
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 12 Jul ... 8

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Others React to Erez Checkpoint Riot *[Jericho VOP]* ... 9
  Authority Sets Up Inquiry *[AFP]* ... 10
  Joint Committee Meets on Riots *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 10
  Sha'th on Erez, 'Pending Issues' *[Jericho VOP]* ... 10
  Orient House: Israel Responsible *[Jericho VOP]* ... 10
Qaddumi on Need for Coordination Among Cordon States *[MENA]* ... 10
'Ashrawi Reacts to Israeli Ban on Political Activity *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 12
PPSF Calls For United Front To Oppose Oslo Accord *[AL-QUDS 15 Jul]* ... 12
Bethlehem Mayor on 'Army of Hungry People' *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 13

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Rumors Circulate Concerning Missing Ambassadors *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Jul]* ... 14
Foreign Minister Dembri Says PRC 'Best Partner' *[Algiers Radio]* ... 14
  Cited on Relations With China *[Algiers Radio]* ... 14
'Moderate' Islamic Mayor Murdered in Oran Province *[Paris Radio]* ... 14

Egypt

Source Details Death, Arrest of 'Terrorists' *[MENA]* ... 14
Prosecutor Orders Trial of Defendants at State Court *[MENA]* ... 15
Islamic Group Licenses Death of Repentant Members *[AL-AHALI 13 Jul]* ... 15
Labor Party Statement on Dialogue Results *[AL-SHA'B 12 Jul]* ... 16
Columnist Questions Dialogue Congress Results *[AL-AHRAM 11 Jul]* ... 18
Civil Servant Fired for Writing Antireligious Book *[AL-AHRAM 13 Jul]* ... 18
Minister on Plan To Control Mosques, Algerian Ties *[AL-AHRAM 13 Jul]* ... 19

Dailies: Erez Riots Will Harm Peace Process *[MENA]* 19
U.S. Credited for Jordanian-Israeli Progress *[MENA]* 20
Source Denies Border Violation Claims by Sudan *[London AL-HAYAH 16 Jul]* 20
Iranian Economic Delegation Arrives on Visit *[MENA]* 20

Libya

Joint Committee With Chad Concludes Meetings 20
First Round Talks Held *[Tripoli International]* 20
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Deby Message *[JANA]* 20
Minutes of Joint Committee Signed *[Tripoli TV]* 21
Press Statement on Meeting Issued *[Tripoli TV]* 22
Prime Minister Praises 'Positive' Results *[JANA]* 23
Chadian President Contacts al-Qadhdhafi; No Details *[Tripoli International]* 23
Salih to al-Qadhdhafi: Yemen Needs Arab Help *[Tripoli International]* 23
Information Minister, Yemeni Counterpart Meet *[JANA]* 23
Israeli, Palestinian Clashes in Gaza Viewed *[Tripoli TV]* 23

Sudan

Al-Turabi Willing To Open Dialogue With Egypt *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 14 Jul]* 24
Media Accuse Egypt of Border Violations *[London AL-HAYAH 15 Jul]* 25
Official on Transportation Cooperation With Iraq *[SUNA]* 25

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Official on Iraqi Invitation for Reconciliation *[KUNA]* 26
First Compensation Payment Reportedly Received *[KUNA]* 26
Foreign Ministry Official Meets Russian Ambassador *[KUNA]* 26
Paper Criticizes King Husayn's Meeting With Rabin *[KUNA]* 26

Yemen

'Source' Denies al-Bid To Remain Out of Politics *[AFP]* 26
Al-Bid Breaks Silence, Contacts Officials *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Jul]* 27
North, South Officials To Discuss Reconciliation *[AFP]* 27
Defense Council Approves Plan To Restructure Army *[Sanaa Radio]* 28
House Speaker on Unity, Post-War Plans *[AL-SAFIR 13 Jul]* 28
Reform Grouping Official on Unity, Islamic Law *[AL-SAFIR 16 Jul]* 31
Says Islamic Law Must Prevail *[AFP]* 33
Al-Asnaj on U.S. Stance, Settlement Prospects *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Jul]* 33
Kidnapping of 'Former' Ambassador Denounced *[INA]* 34

IRAQ

UN's Renewal of Sanctions Reported *[Baghdad Radio]* 35
Saddam Tells Cabinet: Iraq to 'Emerge Victorious' *[Baghdad Radio]* 35
Arab Parliaments Invited for Conciliatory Talks *[Baghdad Radio]* 36
Saddam Receives Well-Wishers on National Day *[INA]* 36
Yeltsin Cable Suggests Cooperation With World *[INA]* 37
BABIL Criticizes Islamic Law Application *[12 Jul]* 37

ISRAEL

Explosion Destroys AMIA Offices in Buenos Aires 41
People Trapped in Building *[Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS 18 Jul]* 41
'Nearly All' Employees Escape *[Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS 18 Jul]* 41
'About 100' Inside During Explosion *[Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS 18 Jul]* 41
Peres: 'Terrorist' Element Behind Blast *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41

  - Peres on Bombing, Husayn Visit *[Jerusalem TV]* 41
  - Netanyahu on Blast, Peace Talks *[Jerusalem TV]* 42
  - Health Minister Implicates Iran *[AFP]* 43
  - Menem Requests Help in Inquiry *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43
  - Rabin on Attack, Peace Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 43
  - Rabin Condemns 'Heinous' Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
- Rabin Expects U.S. Help in Dialogue With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
- Rabin on Palestinian Erez Rioting, Peace With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
- Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motion Over Gaza Riots *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
- IDF Officer Seriously Wounded in Attack in Rafah *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
- Liba'i on Banning Palestinian Political Activity *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 46
- Paper Warns of High Expectations in Jordan Talks *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 19 Jul]* 47
- Minister Denies Settlers Housing in New Qiryat Arba' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
- New HADASH Knesset Member Sworn In *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 19 Jul]* 47

JORDAN

- Russian President's Envoy Arrives for Discussions 48
  - Seeks 'Independent' Peace Strategy *[Amman Radio]* 48
  - Envoy: 'Satisfied' With al-Majali Meeting *[Amman Radio]* 48
  - King Receives Envoy, Yeltsin Message *[Amman Radio]* 48
  - Posuvalyuk Departs *[Amman Radio]* 48
- PLO's Qaddumi Arrives, Makes Statement *[AL-DUSTUR 19 Jul]* 48
- Prime Minister Stresses 'No Unilateral Solution' *[Amman Radio]* 49
- Parties React to Peace Negotiations With Israel 49
  - JNA, al-'Ahd Parties Rally Behind Talks *[JORDAN TIMES 19 Jul]* 49
  - Eight Parties Reject Negotiations *[JORDAN TIMES 18 Jul]* 50
  - IAF Regrets King, Rabin Meeting *[INA]* 51
- Editorial Views Opening of Jordanian-Israeli Talks *[JORDAN TIMES 19 Jul]* 51

LEBANON

- Al-Hirawi Denies 'Link' With Syrian Stance in Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 52
- Hizballah Accuses King Husayn of 'Treason' for Talks *[AFP]* 52
- AL-HAYAH: West Links Bomb With Israel-Hizballah War *[AFP]* 53
- Hizballah Scholar Rejects Peace With Israel *[Tehran Radio]* 53
- Paper Views Hizballah Organization, Activities *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT]* 53
- Government Fails To Address Media Bill Issue *[Beirut Radio]* 56
- Jordan's Royal Court Chief Zayd Bin-Shakir Visits 56
  - Arrives in Beirut *[Beirut Radio]* 56
  - Received by al-Hirawi *[Beirut Radio]* 56
  - Departs After 3-Day Visit *[Beirut Radio]* 57
- Officials on Syrian-Lebanese Economic Integration *[TISHRIN 6 Jul]* 57
- British Trade Delegation Arrives in Beirut *[AFP]* 57

SYRIA

- Warren Christopher Arrives in Damascus *[SANA]* 58
  - Received by Al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 58
- 'High-Ranking' Official Previews Christopher Talks *[London AL-HAYAH 15 Jul]* 58
- U.S. Peacemaking Efforts Welcomed by Minister *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 58
- Russian Envoy Seeking 'Important Development' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Jul]* 58
  - Al-Shar' Receives Russian Official *[Damascus Radio]* 59
- Israeli Commitment To Withdrawal Said Required *[Damascus Radio]* 59
- Israeli Media Cited on Rabin-Husayn Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 60
- Former German Minister Met by Qaddah, Al-Shar' *[Damascus Radio]* 60
  - Received by Vice President *[Damascus Radio]* 60

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Opposition Coalition Calls For ICO, UN Intervention *[Tehran TV]* 61
50 Injured in Missile Attacks on Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 61

India

'Balanced Security' Formula for PRC Border Talks *[THE PIONEER 16 Jul]* 61
Border Trade With China Resumes in Himachal Pradesh *[Delhi Radio]* 62
PRC's Qian Qichen Stresses Improved Economic Ties *[Delhi Radio]* 62
  Comments on Bilateral Issues *[Delhi Radio]* 62
Accord Signed With China To Promote Bilateral Trade *[Delhi Radio]* 62
  Commentary Views Significance of Accord *[Delhi Radio]* 63

Iran

'Zionist Regime' Links Iran to Argentina Explosion *[Tehran Radio]* 63
  Spokesman Denies Involvement *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Christopher Trip, Argentina Blast Linkage Seen *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Radio Views Upcoming Husayn-Rabin Meeting *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Political Situation in Algeria Examined *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 6 Jul]* 64
Daily Previews Possible Changes in North Korea *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 10 Jul]* 65
* KEYHAN Special Report on Mashhad Bombing *[London KEYHAN 30 Jun]* 66
* Skirmishes in Baluchestan, Mashhad Bombing *[London KEYHAN 30 Jun]* 66
* New Appointments Made by Ministry of Health *[SALAM 26 Jun]* 68
  * More Appointments Made *[SALAM 26 Jun]* 68

Pakistan

Five Nationals, Others Arrested in Afghanistan *[PAKISTAN 18 Jul]* 68
Afghan Embassy Denies Reports of Indian Military Aid *[AFP]* 68
Leghari Confers With Chinese Defense Minister *[Islamabad TV]* 68
  PRC Defense Minister Meets Counterpart *[Islamabad Radio]* 69
  Bhutto, Haotian Discuss Missile Expansion *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 18 Jul]* 69

Arab-Israeli Talks

Jordan, Israel Continue Talks in Wadi al-'Arabah

Discuss Border, Security, Water

JN1807134094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Bilateral talks between the Jordanian delegation, headed by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, and the Israeli delegation, headed by Elyaqim Rubinstein, resumed in Wadi al-'Arabah at 1400 today. The delegations will discuss a number of principal issues on the common agenda to regain the Jordanian rights and achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

The second working session, in which the two delegations split into three working groups, will discuss the issues of border demarcation, security, water, energy, and environment. The groups will start a detailed discussion after the agreement was reached on a sub-agenda in Washington. The evening session will continue until 1800 today.

The first working session, which followed the inaugural meeting, concluded at 1300 today. [passage omitted]

Delegates Hold News Conference

JN1807175594 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1504 GMT 18 Jul 94

[News conference by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation, and Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, with unidentified correspondents, at the conclusion of the first day of Jordanian-Israeli bilateral talks in Wadi al-'Arabah, on the Jordanian-Israeli border; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] [Israeli Spokesman Yosi Gal] ...Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation. With us is our esteemed colleague, Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, of the Jordanian delegation. By mutual consent, the two heads of delegations will start (?statements) and then (?take) questions. Because of the weather conditions, we do not want to make this press conference too long. [words indistinct]

[Rubinstein] Thank you very much. Good afternoon everybody and we apologize for the inconvenient conditions. [words indistinct] express regret about the tragedy that we hear happened today in Buenos Aires, where a [words indistinct] a number of people [words indistinct] Jewish community there have [words indistinct].

Let me move to describe briefly our talks today. It has been a good day in the Israeli-Jordanian negotiations. You witnessed the opening ceremony and statements after a short plenary of introduction, we split into three major subcommissions which then, they worked during the day and will continue to do it tomorrow, and their subjects reflect the main issues on our bilateral agenda. [words indistinct] the committee on security headed by General Dayan on our side and General Shurdum on the Jordanian side, the subcommission on boundaries headed by Mr. (?Kahonovisky) on our side and Dr. Tuqan on the Jordanian side, and the subcommission on water, environment, and related issues which include energy headed by Mr. (?Kinat) on our side and Dr. Haddadin on the Jordanian side. The three subcommissions work in a very good atmosphere. It is definitely something which has characterized our negotiations all the time. I would say that it is even more so here.

The negotiations now are concentrating around the issues that will guide our work in the next period, hopefully to be continuous and fruitful. We will be able, hopefully, to announce the concrete results of the work of the subcommissions and (?of our plenary) commission tomorrow. Let me only say that we definitely feel that in each of the subcommissions, work has been done also that both sides reflect a wish, which is also, of course, expressed by the meetings to take place in the next few days on the foreign minister-prime minister level with the secretary of state, that is the al-Majali-Peres-Christopher meeting on Wednesday [20 July], and of course the summit in Washington next Monday. We all feel the mission of paving the road for those meetings and for our future relationship.

It may sound very general, but I think it reflects what we can say today. We will be able to say more, hopefully tomorrow. Thank you very much.

[Al-Tarawinah] Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. We had a very serious day this morning and a very positive one I would say, inspired by this location here and on site, and hopefully that will also inspire us to be more fruitful in tomorrow's deliberations. I do not want to repeat what my colleague, Dr. Rubinstein, has already said about the modalities and the discussions. I just want to reiterate that all the subcommissions, the three subcommissions, took the terms of reference of each subcommission in terms of the sub-agendas that they have—of course the directive is the common agenda that we have—and they went into details as much as possible. Of course we had just hours to do that. We don't expect to finalize the items because the details are monumental. But in the spirit that we had today, I am optimistic that tomorrow we will be in a better position to have a full-fledged press conference with announcements. That is my hope to be able to do it tomorrow. Definitely, we are still, we are in the right track I would say and we have the responsibility of—as Ambassador Rubinstein has said, we have the responsibility of paving the way first to our deliberations on all the details that we have not only on the subgroups or subcommissions, but also the totality of the items of the common agenda, and also, hopefully, we will reach to common understanding on these issues on all the details, and of course we will be together engaging in the more important responsibilities in the common meetings on the 20th and on the 25th.

So, hopefully tomorrow will be another fruitful day, another positive one in the same spirit, on the same commitment to the peace process, which we are both committed to. And we hope that we will come back to you tomorrow, and announce something that is fruitful. Thank you.

[Gal] Thank you Ambassador al-Tarawinah. Thank you Ambassador Rubinstein. By agreement, the identifying the questions will alternate between the two spokesmen. Marwan, why don't you go first?

[Correspondent] Mr. Rubinstein, after a long day of talks in such a hot weather, would you please tell us does Israel admit it occupied Jordanian land?

[Rubinstein] Well, thank you. We have agreed in our common agenda agreement, and in an additional agreement this year to negotiate, delimit, and demarcate the boundary between the two countries. As was said before, this is a task which requires a lot of hard work, a lot of, as my friend Fayiz al-Tarawinah said in a general way, monumental details, which are connected with the survey of the boundary area, the delimitation and demarcation of the boundary. This boundary, except for a very small portion of it, has never been demarcated or delimited per our knowledge. And I said today in my opening statement that while we have reference to mandatory definition, there is no living or any other person on earth who could say exactly where the location of the boundary is. So, it is a task which we undertook together. In the spirit of peace, we are working on this boundary. We will do this work. It will not be an instant coffee activity. It will take time in terms of what is needed. But in good faith by both sides, which has been reflected today in the deliberation of the subcommission on boundary, we will do it. Thank you very much.

[Correspondent] You didn't answer the question, sir. Has Israel occupied Jordanian land?

[Rubinstein] What I said was very clear. I said Israel and Jordan are going to delimit and demarcate their international boundary together. Thank you.

[Gal] Okay. Next question, please.

[Rosen] Dr. al-Tarawinah, assuming these talks will be fruitful. And we will be assuming they will be even fast. Do you see Jordan going for a separate peace treaty with Israel without waiting for other countries, like Syria?

[Al-Tarawinah] Well, this question.... [pauses]. People keep raising this question all the time. We are engaged here in serious negotiations. And as I said, we have a lot of modalities at hand. The whole structure is now more clear, as far as our track is concerned. We have a common agenda that has been signed in Washington. We have subagendas on all the important items of this common agenda. We still have, of course, other items that will be negotiated at the point of time. All our discussions will be within a context of the treaty of peace. And this question is irrelevant at this point of time.

As a matter of fact, I just want to elaborate on the question that has been raised earlier. Of course, we were able to agree on the terms of reference on the issue of the borders and the territorial matters. There is a territorial dimension in our negotiations. And of course, we have demanded as our point of reference portions of the borders that have been delineated previously, not demarcated may be, but we are in here in the process of sorting out and finalize this particular item as an integral part of the common agenda. And of course, we have to look at the interdependences of all the items on the agenda. Specifically yes, we see that we have Jordanian occupied territories. The territorial dimension is an issue in the negotiations, and it is related also to the boundary and we want to sort this out during the negotiations.

[Correspondent] Since you are discussing the boundaries' demarcation, can we understand that the concept of Greatest Israel is no more, is over?

[Rubinstein] Really I do not know to what you are referring in this context. Israel is a neighbor of Jordan and Jordan is a neighbor of Israel. The two countries have expressed the wish to achieve a treaty of peace. A treaty of peace must include all kinds of items which we want to negotiate in good faith and in good spirit that is connected with them. Some of them are the issues that were mentioned today like the boundary, the war, the security. Some other issues are, as I mentioned in the opening statement in the morning, bilateral, economic relations, diplomatic relations and all of them. This is what is our play. The boundary is one of those subjects, and two neighboring countries must have a boundary. This is on our agenda from the very beginning, and it is there now. This is one item out of many items, and we will negotiate this item and parallely all the other items. They will all be packaged into the treaty of peace. I frankly and with respect do not see any relevance between the question definition [words indistinct] between the subject. Thank you very much.

[Correspondent] There was a terrorist attack this afternoon against a Jewish institution in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Would you care to elaborate for us on the position of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on terrorist activities such as this one? Thank you.

[Al-Tarawinah] We are categorically against any aggression, against any aggression, specially when it is directed to innocent people. And this is the firm position of Jordan, the longstanding position of Jordan. So, no one can accept such acts and specially we are in a position here. We have been today engaged at least and not since the Madrid conference which is a two and half years now. We have been engaged in peace negotiations. And this is basically what we are trying to avoid in our region here. And that is what we want, basically the peace in our region to spill over all over the world, the world at large. And we are again categorically against any aggression against innocent people.

[Correspondent] Mr. Rubinstein, I would like you please to clarify why you were mentioning that in your opening speech and it was only the beginning of the meeting concerning both the demarcation and the water, because you are not mentioning anything about the Jordanian rights since 1967. That's number one. And number two, you are not mentioning anything about any kind of maps that we can use from Britain. Thank you?

[Rubinstein] Well, the opening statement was a positive opening for positive negotiations. It was not aimed to be the catalogue of every detail in the negotiations, maps or this or that part of any item on our common agenda on the negotiations. The aim of an opening statement like that, and I would like to hope that it was received in the spirit that it was written, in which it was, and in which it was submitted. The aim of such an opening statement is to give the general lines of the policy of the State of Israel, its view of the negotiations with Jordan, which it sees as a central part of its peace policy, the main items which should be negotiated, etc. With all due respect, what you are referring to, and I, of course, respect what you had to say, is a detail which may be accurate or may be inaccurate on the items on the negotiating room, and this we should leave for the negotiations. Let me add, just elaborating for a minute on what my friend, Dr. al-Tarawinah said about the terrorism. I would like to mention that in our basic common agenda agreement, there is a specific in the security article, there is a specific reference to our common opposition to all kinds of terrorism.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] claimed by Jordan is settled by Israelis. Is there any place, or will be Jordan willing to trade the land for land.

[Al-Tarawinah] To trade what?

[Correspondent] Land for land?

[Al-Tarawinah] Well, first of all, this is Jordanian territories, and it should be settled as it is. And, there is no trade of [word indistinct] at all. Thank you.

[Correspondent] Mr. Rubinstein, as we sit here in the hot weather [words indistinct] water in front of you, we are constantly reminded of the acute water shortages that we live under in Jordan. With that in mind, is Israel willing to recognize Jordan's rights to the water it lost during the last, let's say 40 years, due to over-pumping from Israel from the River Jordan?

[Rubinstein] Well, again, just reminding you that our agreements, so far, have mentioned both sides will enjoy their rightful shares in the water of the rivers and other resources along the boundary, and also work to develop new water resources. It is, of course, a subjective way, an approach which you may have the way to describe it. Our approach is, and we want to do it amicably and cordially. In fact, we have been, in an amicable and cordial way, talking to our Jordanian colleagues, the water experts over the years, the last few years. We are willing to listen to any idea. We are willing to offer new ideas, and we will settle the water issue. But, let me underline, again, things that have been said. The two countries are developing, rapidly. What was true for both of them 40 years ago, 30 years ago, 20 years ago, 10 years ago is not true any more now. The demands are different. The situation of industry, the urban situation, all of that requires, besides the allocation of existing resources, a lot of creativity in terms of new resources through desalination, through catching waters that are being wasted, flood waters etc, through cleaning water resources which have been affected. This is also part of our challenge, and just on the former question that comes out all the time, the idea of territorial issues, and that's legitimate. Let me just say that, so far, we have read about the Jordanian substantial position in the territorial dispute in the media, and so on. We are in the negotiations. We will expect, like our Jordanian colleagues will expect to hear what our views are, we will expect to hear what their views are. We hear the ideas of territories, occupied territories. So far, as far as we are concerned, and I am saying in the most frank way, we have read about it. We have read about it in the media, in the newspapers. We know that you have territorial wishes and ideas concerning the boundary. We respect that. We have our own ideas. This will be negotiated. I would say, please wait for the conclusions to the negotiations. I am sure this is workable. The two countries want peace. The two leaderships want peace. The two countries want to proceed quickly. The two leaderships want to proceed quickly. Give the negotiations the appropriate chance and time. They will be, God willing, achieved.

[Correspondent] I am coming from one of the most interesting places, from Petra. When do you think people from Israel would be able to go to visit Petra, to see Petra, and people from Jordan coming to visit Israel.

[Al-Tarawinah] Well, this is our hope, sir, from the whole exercise. We are here to sort our problems out—the roots of the conflict, and we already specified and identified all the areas of conflict and which has been with us for the last 47 years or so, even maybe from the beginning of the century. This is a very serious and extremely serious process, and basically the name of the process is a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the whole region. We are part of the region, an important part of the region. And hopefully that progress on our track will spill over positiveness and the same attitude on all tracks that we will have the comprehensiveness of the process. Then as we culminate the whole process in a treaty of peace after we clarify and be sure that no further sources of friction or hostilities remain, and we have to be very very careful on this to clarify each and every item that we have on the agendas, on the common agendas, or even if it is raised that we did not.... [pauses] We have to settle all the issues and to make it as clear and to have the common understanding on all this, put them in agreements and then culminate them in a treaty of peace, then people can go to Petra and go to wherever. Thank you, sir.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] be able to conclude your negotiations if you all work very hard and this is a question to both heads of delegations, can we expect you to conclude in that case in a time of one month, two months, or do you think it may take even longer?

[Al-Tarawinah] We are working extremely hard, ma'am. That we can assure you. But when we will finish, I always tell my colleague, it all depends on Ambassador Rubenstein.

[Rubenstein] Well this is a surprise, surprise. I can say that we, from our point of view, are extremely eager to finalize the negotiations on a treaty of peace as soon as possible. From my point of view, the moment we are (?true) and this can be done. It's a matter, I assume, of months. But the moment we are true with our negotiations, it can be done in hard work in a reasonably short period, although very short in terms of the details. We are ready to [words indistinct] to sign a treaty of peace. It will be up to our Jordanian colleagues to join us [words indistinct], thank you very much.

[Correspondent] Ambassador, an invitation has been extended to King Husayn to visit Jerusalem. And to my best knowledge, I never met so far [sentence as heard]. Can we expect the king to visit Jerusalem before the end of 94, as one of his close friends indicated. And number two, can we foresee if the summit Washington goes well a gradual normalization of relations between the two countries in accordance to the achievement that they are going to make in your negotiations?

[Al-Tarawinah] Well, sir, you are.... [pauses] It seems that most of the questions are on expectations. And we are not here to really base expectations. First of all, we are approaching the peace process in a very pragmatic and practical manner, and looking at the issues at hand, looking at the legalities, the politics involved in it, the economics involved in it, and the social dimension, the human dimension, whatever. Now, there.... [pauses] As we proceed, and we are progressing, basically now we move from Washington to the region. In two days time, there will be meetings on the foreign ministerial level. And then on the 25th, there will be even a higher level of meetings. Let us not jump into expectations, 1994, 95, whatever. What we want to be, and want to assure you that we are very serious in this. If it takes us one month, or two years, the most important thing is to really tackle all the issues; and this negotiation, sir, is not, and I underscore the word not, subject to the two negotiating teams here, because we have our political leaders, and we have the Jordanian position, the Israeli position. And we have to narrow gaps in the process. I cannot give you expectations on when we finish, when we do. What I can say is the things that I know of, and everybody knows that we will have a meeting on the 25th in Washington for his majesty and Prime Minister Rabin. Thank you.

[Gal] Last question.

[Correspondent] I am [words indistinct] this question to you. Since one of the main issues to be discussed by the committees is security, what kind of stand can we expect from Israel regarding the recent request by His Majesty King Husayn from Washington for weapons in the region for security? And would Israel try to affect the quantity and the type of weapons to enter the region?

[Rubinstein] I wouldn't like to go into the relationship between Jordan, a country which we work with and we respect, and a great respect for his majesty, and the United States, a country which we are allied to it, which we respect very much. I think that the next week will witness a meeting in Washington of our prime minister with His Majesty King Husyan, with President Clinton, the host. There will be also a joint session of Congress, in which they will both address. I think we should leave the U.S.-Jordanian relations to the two countries, as we would like our relations with any country, including the United States to be left to the bilateral comment.

Let me just conclude by thanking you all for sitting here in the sun. Let me also thank all our administrative people, the liaison military people for all their work today. This has been a very important mission, and a very difficult one to perform. And I am sure I am also reflecting my friend Fayiz al-Tarawinah's view in thanking them all.

[Al-Tarawinah] I do associate myself with this conclusion. And thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

[Gal] Thank you very much. Negotiations will resume tomorrow at 1000, and a press conference is scheduled for 1130 tomorrow. Thank you.

'Little Advance' Noted

JN1907102194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jul 94 pp 1, 7

[Report by Nirmin Murad from Wadi al-'Arabah]

[Excerpts] Jordan and Israel launched historic talks here Monday [18 July] in accelerated moves in the Middle East peace process and exchanged speeches reaffirming commitment to a negotiated settlement and living up to agreements, but little advance towards addressing the core issues was achieved as the day's negotiations drew to a close.

During two sessions of negotiations that started after a ceremonial opening, the two sides ran into the perennial snag: Israel pushed its quest to finalise a peace treaty as quickly as possible while Jordan insisted that the Kingdom's territorial and water rights be restored before discussing any treaties. [passage omitted]

Talks concentrating on security, borders and territory as well as water did actually take place Monday in Wadi al-'Arabah. But at the end of the day, when the heads of the two delegations faced the press there was little to say, save for remarks highlighting the day's historical significance and addressing old questions over issues that yet have to be negotiated and agreed upon.

Yet, despite the infancy of these talks, both sides emphasised their historical importance. Not only were these bilateral talks the first to be held in the region since the

Middle East process was launched in October 1991, they were alo held at a spot that underlined the geographic proximity as well as the traditional division between the two neighbouring states. [passage omitted]

Despite the wise cracks from the Israeli side, and the smiles and cordial atmosphere from the Jordanians, the political landscape did not appear to have changed.

Both sides agreed that they are on the right track, falling back repeatedly to the scheduled July 25 meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin as proof of their commitment.

But while the Jordanians pressed ahead with their demands for rights, the Israelis publicly fudged on commitments on borders and water.

Mr. Rubenstein was very forthcoming in showing his pleasure at being seated next to his "colleague and friend" al-Tarawinah. But he became less forthcoming when asked about substantive issues on land and water.

He refused to publicly admit that Israel occupies Jordanian territory and while conceding that there are water shortages "in both countries" he failed to mention Israel's denial of Jordan's water rights.

Dr. al-Tarawinah handled the whole deal differently. "We are here to solve the roots of the problem. We want comprehensive peace. A peace treaty will come after," he said. It was a theme that the Israelis did not or did not want to understand and the Jordanians kept pressing throughout the day.

When asked about borders, both sides agreed that demarcaton would require a lot of hard work and time. But while Jordan keeps reminding Israel that there is a binding border line drawn out under the British mandate and one that was accepted by Israel as part of the common agenda, Mr. Rubinstein referred to this as "territorial wishes."

Mr. Rubenstein may have sought to hit the nail on the head when he said: "It will not be instant coffee, but the task will be done in good spirit."

Whether instant or otherwise, the task is likely to remain a distant goal when the delegations fold their files and return to their government today.

2d Day of Talks Begin

JN1907083494 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0800 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Jordanian and Israeli negotiators have just started a second day of talks in Wadi al-'Arabah. Discussions were dealing with border demarcation, security, and water. Both chief delegates will hold a news conference at the end of the talks at 1400 [1100 GMT] in the afternoon.

Talks on Empowerment Resume, Emphasize Education

NC1907102994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian-Israeli negotiations resumed this morning on the transfer of civilian powers in the West Bank to the Palestinian National Authority.

Dr. Nabil Qassis, the head of the Palestinian side on the committee on the transfer of civilian powers, told MENA that the talks at yesterday's two sessions focused on an early transfer of power in general and in the field of education in particular.

He said the two sides exchanged views and ideas on the concept of early empowerment and agreed to continue the talks today to discuss other aspects of empowerment. He said neither side presented written documents.

Commenting on incidents in Gaza on Sunday [17 July] and their impact on the negotiations, Qassis said the peace process is integrated and that the early empowerment talks, or any other talks for that matter, will be futile if the peace process is undermined elsewhere.

He explained that the Israeli measures at the crossing points sow seeds of trouble. He said the Palestinian police did their best to control the situation.

The issue of curricula in Palestinian schools is being given the utmost attention in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. The Israelis are demanding that the curricula contain no instigation against Israel.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief Comments on Saddam's Reconciliation Call

NC1807171494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has reemphasized the need for Arab reconciliation and a revived inter-Arab solidarity at this particular stage which requires closed ranks vis-a-vis current world changes and the gigantic international economic blocs.

In remarks to MENA today, 'Abd-al-Majid commented on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's call yesterday, Sunday, to establish peace and security between Iraq and its neighbors. He said that the Arab League has already made an initiative for this purpose, is following it up, and encourages any effort to end inter-Arab differences.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid listed the necessary foundations for restoring Arab solidarity, trust, and mutual assurance. He said they are respect for the Arab countries' independence, territorial integrity, and sovereignty over their own resources, nonintervention in their domestic affairs, and tackling the after-effects of the Gulf crisis with a view to closing this file permanently.

'Abd-al-Majid explained that another important basis for restoring Arab solidarity is to begin building a purely Arab security apparatus and provide it with the requisite Arab resources that will enable it to maintain a stable and secure Arab world. He added that guarantees must be provided to prevent the recurrence of what happened in the summer of 1990, an event unprecedented in the sphere of inter-Arab relations.

The secretary general called for developing necessary mechanisms within the Arab League to solve inter-Arab disputes peacefully. He also urged that the Arab countries commit themselves to a frank exchange of information and refrain from conducting media campaigns against each other.

Commenting on the UN Security Council's meeting to discuss the extension of the international embargo on Iraq, 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab League believes it is time to end the Iraqi people's hardships, particularly as children, women, and old people are suffering a lot as a result of the international sanctions.

Contacts Promote Iraq-Kuwait Reconciliation

NC1807141494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Jul (MENA)—Unannounced contacts are currently being held among several Arab leaders to take effective measures to achieve a comprehensive Arab reconciliation.

President Husni Mubarak previously called for achieving a comprehensive Arab reconciliation and ending the bad state of inter-Arab relations caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's call in a speech he gave yesterday asking Arab leaders to forget the past and restore peace and security among Arab countries falls in this context. It is the first "positive call" by Iraq since the Gulf crisis in 1990. This encourages the belief that Arab relations will see a noticeable improvement this year.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said at the recent meeting of the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers in Kuwait that now is the most suitable time for Arab reconciliation, a clear and frank indication of the need to work for this.

So far there has been no official reaction in Kuwait to the Iraqi president's statements on cooperation with neighboring countries and forgetting the past. But Kuwaiti officials assert that in order to achieve Kuwaiti-Iraqi reconciliation, the Iraqi regime must recognize Kuwait's legitimate borders and sovereignty and release the Kuwaiti prisoners now held in Iraqi jails. Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad recently emphasized the need for "frankness before reconciliation" and stressed the need for Iraq to accept Kuwait's conditions.

Currently there is an argument in Kuwaiti circles about these statements. While some see that the new Iraqi stand must be taken seriously, others view it as a new maneuver to prompt the UN Security Council to "lift the economic embargo on Iraq."

However, there is near consensus that Kuwaiti suspicion of the Iraqi regime is still deep and makes a Kuwaiti-Iraqi rapprochement unlikely.

Arab political circles are monitoring reactions from the concerned Arab capitals, especially from the Damascus Declaration's eight member states.

'Abd-al-Majid, Envoy Discuss Libya-West Crisis

NC1807172094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1458 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with Ambassador Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League.

Al-Bishari said afterwards that the meeting was part of the League's continuous efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the Libyan-Western crisis in implementation of the Arab League Council resolution calling for a peaceful solution based on Libya's proposals. These proposals call for the trial of two Libyan suspects before a Scottish judiciary at the International Court of Justice.

He added that his country relies on Egypt's and the Arab League's role in finding a peaceful solution to the crisis. He ruled out the possibility of holding an urgent meeting of the seven-member Arab Committee entrusted with discussing the Libyan-Western crisis before the Arab League Council's next session in September.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 12 Jul

NC1707103794

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 12 July issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Mashhur: Brotherhood Nonviolent, Prevalent
2. Al-Ghazali Urges Unity Against 'Global Colonialism'
3. Writer Praises Islamists in Yemeni Government
4. Comment on National Dialogue Congress
5. Deputy Leader Stresses Labor Party's Islamic Affiliation
6. 'Arafat's Return to Gaza Commended

MASHHUR: BROTHERHOOD NONVIOLENT, PREVALENT

Muslim Brotherhood [MB] Deputy General Guide Mustafa Mashhur thanks God for sparing the MB the necessity of participating in the National Dialogue Congress. Referring to documented attacks on the MB during the Congress, he thanks those who defended the Brotherhood and expresses "pity" for its attackers.

In a 1,500-word article on page 5 titled "The Brotherhood and the Dialogue Congress...!", Mashhur says it is his duty to comment on what happened during the congress. He denies that the MB is a mere political party "using religion as a cover" and declares that it is "a worldwide society based on a creed." He says Islam is a complete system involving "a creed, mode of worship, nationhood, citizenship, morality, physical reality, culture, law, tolerance, and strength." To the early Muslims, he declares, Islam was "a religion and a state; a scripture and a sword."

Mashhur adds: "Thus there can be no separation of religion and politics because Islam covers the spheres of law, the death penalty, lesser punishments, economy, and national rights and duties. It advocates mercy, justice, unity, and magnanimity and charity among the citizens, even if their faiths and religions differ. It has established an incomparable civilization that ensures the happiness of all."

He emphasizes that the MB, far from profiteering from religion, has paid a price for its open advocacy of Islam. He denies that the movement sanctions violence or seeks to rule, declaring: "We do not insist on governing, but we demand to be governed according to God's law. We will follow anyone who rules thus."

He continues: "We strive to operate via legitimate channels wherever we can, including the professional associations, the People's Assembly, and local government councils, doing all this without breaking the law. Where is our violence and terrorism?"

Mashhur expresses "disgust" at those who urge the regime to suppress the MB and says the movement is difficult to destroy because it is in the hearts of all true Muslims.

Turning to extremism, he says it cannot be solved by "force, jails, and killing" but by granting the citizens greater freedom of speech and in politics.

AL-GHAZALI URGES UNITY AGAINST 'GLOBAL COLONIALISM'

In his "This Is Our Religion" column on page 12, Muhammad al-Ghazali voices sorrow at the recent bombing of the Imam Reza Shrine in Iran and says it reminds him of other attacks on Muslim shrines, including India's Babri Mosque. He accuses "global colonialism" of inciting such attacks, urges Iranian Muslims to be steadfast and vigilant, and calls on Muslims everywhere to "close ranks and form a united front, because I do not see an imminent end to the major powers' conspiracies against them."

Saying that the writer Salman Rushdie continues to be honored in Europe and the United States, al-Ghazali rebukes those who hark back to ancient inter-Muslim disputes or falsely claim that the Shiites "have a different Koran than ours."

He concludes: "Global colonialism is still plotting against us. Why are you trying to divide the nation and weaken its resistance?"

WRITER PRAISES ISLAMISTS IN YEMENI GOVERNMENT

A 500-word article by Ahmad al-Suyufi titled "I Saw the Islamist Bugbear Participating in Ruling Yemen" published on page 2 praises the participation of the Islamists in governing Yemen. Al-Suyufi says some deputy prime ministers, ministers, and members of Parliament, including Parliament speaker 'Abdallah al-Ahmar himself, are Islamists. He praises President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih for cooperating with them and notes that the Islamists are "open" and willing to work with other groups within the coalition including communists, although they later helped the regime and other Yemeni groups to fight the communists to protect the country's unity.

Al-Suyufi recalls that some Arab presidents and kings, together with their "foreign brethren—including of course those who had defended Islam against its neighbors," broached the subject with President Salih and asked why he had included fundamentalists in his government. Al-Suyufi says Salih told them: "Our fundamentalists are different from fundamentalists anywhere else. They are open, reasonable, and nonterrorist."

Al-Suyufi praises the Yemeni Islamists' wisdom and competence and says: "I thank God that I have lived to see with my own eyes this bugbear honorably participating in Yemen's government. It is an experiment worthy of emulation."

COMMENT ON NATIONAL DIALOGUE CONGRESS

Mahfuz 'Azzam, Labor Party Executive Committee member who, with 'Abd-al-Hamid Barakat, represented the party at the meetings of the National Dialogue Congress Political Committee, authors an 800-word commentary on page 2 entitled "Who Won and Who Lost in the Dialogue?"

'Azzam explains that he had been against participating in the dialogue from the start. He faults the National Dialogue Congress for refusing to issue invitations to real political forces influential at the grassroots level, such as the Muslim Brotherhood. He is unhappy with the fact that the ruling National Democratic Party [NDP] dictated the congress' agenda, foiling the Labor Party's attempts to discuss political and constitutional reform. He tells how the moderators at the National Dialogue

Committees attempted with some success to prevent Labor Party representatives from speaking.

He notes the general feeling among various political parties that the NDP appeared to be having a dialogue with itself and adds: "It was not reasonable or imaginable that this dialogue would produce anything serious or useful, because the dialogue involved every conceivable issue in the country, big and small, and the Congress was required to find solutions to all Egyptian problems in a mere 10 sessions, generally as noisy as the People's Assembly meetings."

'Azzam concludes, however, by remarking that "the dialogue experiment and its results must be evaluated and studied."

DEPUTY LEADER STRESSES LABOR PARTY'S ISLAMIC AFFILIATION

Labor Party Deputy Leader Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad reviews some of the deliberations of the National Dialogue Congress in a 3,000-word article published on page 5. Among other issues, he comments on a paper submitted by the National Committee for Combating Terrorism titled "Terrorism Under the Guise of Religion."

Murad says he agrees with this committee's proposals to abide by due process of law in combating terrorism. He supports its call for national unity and for economic, political, and social development as a countermeasure to the rise of terrorism. He disagrees, however, with its call for separating religion and politics because, he says, Muslims who properly understand their religion know it is both a faith and a shari'ah that must be implemented. To prove his point, he cites the Koranic verse: "Then is it only a part of the Book that ye believe in, and do ye reject the rest?"

Murad then discusses comments by "establishment writers" on the national dialogue process. He takes issue with AL-AHRAM columnist 'Abd-al-'Azim Ramadan for accusing the Labor Party of abandoning its socialist principles and turning into an Islamist party, something which Ramadan says has never happened anywhere else.

Murad replies that the Labor Party's recent switch from a socialist orientation to the Islamist stream lacks proof and that the Labor Party's program has been "replete with Islamic teachings since its foundation."

He continues: "The socialism that our party advocates has never been Marxist-Leninist. It has always been Islamic socialism."

'ARAFAT'S RETURN TO GAZA COMMENDED

On page 12, AL-SHA'B publishes the usual back-page column by Dr. Mahjub 'Umar, this time with an apology for its delay because the writer had been on a trip abroad. The issue he belatedly discusses is PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's return to Gaza.

In his 3,000-word column, 'Umar blames those who would cast doubt on the significance of this event and says whatever judgement is passed on 'Arafat by commentators and analysts, his very return to Gaza weighs in his favor.

He compares the PLO's resilience in surviving its experiences in Jordan and Lebanon to the Egyptian's people recovery from their 1967 defeat and says that the West and "Westernized people" cannot comprehend the Arab Muslims' capacity to rebound.

He reviews the threats from the Israeli right, who fear 'Arafat, and the threats from Palestinians and says that the return of 'Arafat and other Palestinians to Palestinian territory is "a ray of light at the end of the dark tunnel."

'Umar concludes: "We have a right to rejoice, but we must not imagine that the blessed Palestinian revolution's passage through the long dark tunnel is over. The road is still long. The border line which 'Arafat crossed into Gaza is the starting line for the liberation of Palestine, all of Palestine, and the liberation of venerated Jerusalem. It is the starting line for the reborn dream of pan-Arab unity and a united Arab state."

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 12 Jul

NC1607105494

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 12 July issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Preacher Who Spoke Against Extremism Praised
2. Higher Council for Islamic Affairs To Meet in August
3. Shaykh al-Ghazali on Islam and Civilization
4. Book of Islam and Violence Reviewed
5. Village Excels in Religious Education

PREACHER WHO SPOKE AGAINST EXTREMISM PRAISED

A 250-word editorial by Samir Rajab on page 1 praises an unnamed preacher at the al-Sultan Abu-al-'Ala' Mosque in Bulaq for his Friday sermon. He says the "venerable shaykh did not speak to us about the bald-headed snake of the tomb or close the doors of paradise before us for the sins we have committed in our lives, but said that extremism profoundly damages the righteous religion. He noted that those who are saying society is infidel are merely a group of falsifiers, thieves, and con men." He then adds that the absence of such courageous and bold words in the past "have helped these 'charlatans' to impose their ideas and fill the brains of the young with concepts not ordained by God." Rajab voices his opinion that the recent meetings held by the Awqaf minister with preachers and imams have started to bear fruit and hopes that "these meetings will continue to include every preacher and imam in all mosques, large or small, regardless of whether they belong to the Awqaf Ministry or not."

HIGHER COUNCIL FOR ISLAMIC AFFAIRS TO MEET IN AUGUST

An 80-word report on page 2 says that the 6th conference of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs will be held in Alexandria between 16 and 19 August under President Mubarak's auspices. It adds that the conference "will discuss the five basic aspects of cultural, economic, political, social, and religious cooperation between the Islamic nation and other nations."

SHAYKH AL-GHAZALI ON ISLAM AND CIVILIZATION

A 250-word report on page 7 says that, after recalling a visit to Mauritania where he saw Communist Chinese digging water wells and another visit to Yemen where the same Communist Chinese were paving roads across the mountains, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali says that he felt deeply annoyed when he learned that an Islamic country that used to export wheat when it was a colony began to import it when it became independent. He also says he felt ashamed when he did not see the name of a single Islamic country among the top 20 industrial countries. He then says: "God's religion cannot be upheld or defended by the losers in the clever human civilization who only talk in the abstract but fall silent in the world of testimony to God. The ignorant ones' boasts of false or incomplete knowledge is unbearable. If we do not explain the whole truth to our nation and bring to it the point of scientific progress in the modern world, then it and we will be destroyed and fall into the abyss. The basis from which we should start is this: We should know ourselves and know that we are in possession of a divine message that does not succeed unless it possesses the earth's riches and blessings and uses them to serve this message. If we fail in appreciating our heritage and mobilizing the forces of the universe to uphold right and defeat injustice, then we can blame no one but ourselves."

BOOK ON ISLAM AND VIOLENCE REVIEWED

A-75 word report on page 10 very briefly reviews a book entitled "Islam's Stance on Violence, Aggression, and Human Rights Violations" by Hasan Mahmud Khalil. It says that the book stresses the care that Islam and its teachings give to the brothers in humanity and its protection of man's rights and dignity.

VILLAGE EXCELS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A-900 word report on pages 12 and 13 by Mamduh al-'Ishari details how one small village can be called "the Koranic village" since all boys and girls in it know the Koran. The report starts by saying that there are five centers for teaching the Koran and an Islamic center in the village of Kafr al-Zaqaziq al-Qibli in al-Qalyubiyah Governorate in addition to al-Azhar-affiliated separate schools for boys and girls for all stages of education. It notes that many of them take part in Koranic and other religious competitions and win first prizes. The report then cites Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hakam Mahmud 'Abd-al-Ghani, first preacher of Markaz Minya al-Qamh as saying: "My job is to supervise the center's mosques, especially the village mosque. Our first activity is to teach the Holy Koran. Thank God that we have succeeded in this. We give free lessons for the enhancement of religious knowledge in the mosques and are helped in this by al-Azhar men and education officials. Thanks be to God that the result of all this is this calm in the village. There is no extremism and no problems because the basis here is correct religious education." The report then cites several teachers who speak about their work and then asks various boys and girls about their religious education and the competitions they had taken part in.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Others React to Erez Checkpoint Riot

JN1807150694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat, accompanied by some senior military commanders, has visited al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza to see citizens wounded in yesterday's clashes at Erez crossing point.

Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said yesterday's events, which resulted in two martyrs and scores of wounded, were a serious and unacceptable act. Abu-'Ammar said using bullets to stop people from getting their bread and butter is unacceptable.

In a news conference he held at al-Shifa' Hospital yesterday following the incident at Erez crossing point, President Yasir 'Arafat demanded the deployment of international observers in the area under the control of the Palestinian national authority. Abu-'Ammar accused the Israeli forces of opening fire at the Palestinian workers, noting this incident violates the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

President 'Arafat also sent letters of protest and condemnation to the United States, the United Nations, and some European states following the bloody confrontations at Erez crossing point.

Within the same context, Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, has demanded the disarming of settlers and moving settlements outside the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. He also urged the deployment of international forces in all the occupied territories.

Yosin Beilin, the Israeli deputy foreign minister, rejected 'Arafat's appeal to deploy international observers in the areas under the control of the Palestinian national authority. Beilin said: The experience of deploying international observers in Hebron was worthless. The Israelis and Palestinians must resolve the problems themselves.

Authority Sets Up Inquiry

NC1807145494 Paris AFP in English 1410 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 18 (AFP)—The Palestinian Authority has set up an inquiry into violence which erupted on the Gaza Strip killing two Arabs and wounding more than 100 other people, a senior PLO official said Monday [18 July].

Chief PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th also said he would attend a high-level Israeli-Palestinian coordination committee that could meet in a week's time to discuss Sunday's riots at the Erez checkpoint between Israel and the Strip. He told reporters he would work with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to push for an early meeting of the committee.

Meanwhile, a lower-level joint Israeli-Palestinian security committee met Monday at Erez, Sha'th said without giving further details. "We will try, with the Israelis, to examine all the problems leading to the Erez tragedy," Sha'th said. "The Palestinian workers suffer too much at the crossing, they wait long hours and are humiliated."

Israel and the Palestinians have accused each other of being responsible for the riots which broke out at dawn and left two Palestinians dead and at least 75 wounded. Some 24 Israelis were also hurt.

Israeli officials said the Palestinian workers who went on a rampage were enraged by laborious procedures at their own checkpoint. But Palestinians said their police waved through the workers who were then humiliated or turned back by the Israeli border guards. The riots spread into a violent confrontation, dragging in Palestinian policemen and Jewish settlers. More than 120 buses were set on fire, according to the Israeli Egged bus company.

Joint Committee Meets on Riots

TA1807184794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] The Joint Israeli-Palestinian Security Committee this afternoon discussed the riots that took place at the Erez roadblock yesterday and the grave damage caused to Israeli property by the Palestinian rioters. A senior security source told our correspondent Moti Amir that it was decided to set up two work committees: one to look into the circumstances and conduct of military men on both sides, and the other to deal with the redeployment of both sides around the Erez roadblock and creating the conditions necessary to enable Gaza laborers to leave for Israel again. It was also decided to establish a civilian committee which will engage in assessing the damage and handling compensation.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 18 July adds that the Joint Security Committee "decided to consolidate measures which will guarantee an orderly exit of laborers from the Gaza Strip. The closure on the Gaza Strip will continue as long as both sides are not convinced that yesterday's riots will not recur. The Palestinian police will reinforce their units at the Erez roadblock."]

Sha'th on Erez, 'Pending Issues'

JN1907105294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has said that the issue of the international presence in the PNA areas, the participating states, and the financing process, will be discussed today.

Dr. Sha'th added: There are 26 pending issues. The most important of these issues are: the size of the Jericho area, the crossings issue, the completion of measures to take control of the al-Mawasi area, and the prisoners issue. We hope we will reach solutions in the next two weeks, and later to devote our time to extending the PNA to the West Bank.

In another development, Sha'th said: We have not taken control of the air space and the sea due to the difficult financial circumstances.

Commenting on the bloody incidents at the Erez checkpoint, Sha'th said: Our people are being exposed to starvation and siege. It was agreed with Israel to allow 30,000 workers to enter daily from the Gaza Strip into Israel. However, Israel has not fulfilled its commitments.

Orient House: Israel Responsible

JN1907103694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] The Orient House issued a statement in Jerusalem yesterday in which said it held Israeli authorities responsible for the incidents at the Erez checkpoint the day before yesterday.

The statement said that the Israeli authorities have recently escalated the mass punishment policy against the Palestinian citizens by closing the crossing as workers tried to pass, insulting them, and tearing up their permits.

The statement appealed to the international community and the donor states to assume their responsibilities concerning the starvation and repression to which our people are being exposed.

Qaddumi on Need for Coordination Among Cordon States

NC1807144094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1323 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Tunis, 18 Jul (MENA)—Head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi has emphasized the need to consolidate coordination and solidarity among the cordon states [Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the PLO] despite the varying levels of progress made on different tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

In an exclusive interview with MENA's correspondent in Tunis, he stressed the need for the Arab parties concerned to sign an accord for a comprehensive and just peace simultaneously as an Arab group directly involved in the issue.

He said contacts, cooperation, and coordination must be enhanced among these countries, noting that there was an agreement at the beginning that these countries sign a "peace treaty" simultaneously.

Speaking about the possibility of establishing an independent Palestinian state, he affirmed that developments will lead to founding this state in the entire Palestinian territory occupied in 1967 proceeding from the Palestinian self-rule agreement. He said: We are working to build the structures and ministries of this state in future and to organize these ministries, tax and customs departments, and all institutions that have not been (?established) yet. He added: We are also working to set up a Palestinian economy able to improve the Palestinian people's living standard so that they may live in prosperity.

Qaddumi went on: We are working to establish a Palestinian state despite the numerous difficulties and challenges facing us. Although there are shortcomings in the concluded agreements, our mission is to remove these shortcomings and at the same time to proceed along with the Palestinian society to achieve the desired outcome, the establishment of a state with Jerusalem as its capital.

He referred to the Egyptian role in supporting the Palestinian cause, affirming that Egypt has exerted great efforts in this regard. He denied that Egypt or any Arab country has pressured the Palestinians. He said there is continuous dialogue between the Palestinians and Arab countries, especially those concerned with the peaceful settlement and asserted that the final say in making the decision they want is up to the Palestinians themselves.

He noted that the Palestinian decisionmaking is independent and said the Palestinians made strenuous efforts to make such a decision independent. He said the agreements concluded are a Palestinian responsibility borne by the Palestinian leadership and that no other party should be blamed.

Concerning the prospect of convening a session of the Palestinian National Council [PNC] to discuss altering the PLO Charter in line with the provisions of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, Qaddumi remarked that he sees no such prospect in the near future. He added that such a PNC session, comprising all members from inside and outside the Palestinian territories, must be convened only after a comprehensive peace settlement is signed. He declared that it is impermissible and absurd to convene the PNC to discuss altering the PLO Charter before the Israelis leave the Palestinian territories and a comprehensive agreement is signed.

Qaddumi stressed the need to hold legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza on the specified date in line with the autonomy agreement.

He revealed that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asked Yasir 'Arafat during their 6 July meeting in Paris not to hold these elections because Israel would not redeploy its forces in the West Bank or withdraw from the towns and other populated areas as the agreements stipulate. Qaddumi said this is an Israeli ploy but 'Arafat insisted emphatically on holding the elections on the specified date.

Discussing the unity of Palestinian ranks and Fatah-Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] disagreements, Qaddumi said it has become a national duty to eliminate these disagreements. He referred to 'Arafat's remarks when he entered Gaza and Jericho which clearly showed a sincere wish to hold a dialogue with the various opposition factions, including Hamas. Qaddumi said all these factions are part of the Palestinian nationalist movement.

He added: We sincerely wish to attain national consensus and achieve unity inside and outside the territories. Our efforts in this regard will not flag.

Qaddumi reported that he had been instructed by the PLO leadership to hold a dialogue with the Palestinian forces outside the territories with a view to unifying ranks and boosting Palestinian national unity.

Qaddumi explained that the political settlement on the Palestinian track is very different from the other negotiating tracks, that it involves a transitional period not found on the other Arab tracks, and for this reason the Palestinians had to complete the transitional phase first in order to come up to the level of the Arab fronts and negotiate a final settlement.

Qaddumi also discussed with the MENA correspondent the Arab boycott of Israel and the prospects of terminating it. He declared that Israel must first of all make big strides, withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, not only the Palestinian ones, and after that the Arab League can discuss lifting the boycott.

Qaddumi explained that the boycott is not the individual affair of one Arab party but is the product of a unanimous Arab decision and only the Arab League can decide whether to continue or end it.

He added that the Arab League Council will discuss this issue at the next meeting of the Arab foreign ministers because it is a pan-Arab affair.

Qaddumi said the PLO Political Department, Pan-Arab and International Affairs Department led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and the Returnees Department led by PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah al-Hurani will stay in Tunis.

He added that the Political Department will remain in Tunis for a long time and that it will not move to any other place. He noted that this department will supervise PLO's foreign relations with countries that have ties with the PLO, holding negotiations, and concluding agreements on aid for the Palestinian National Authority.

He emphasized that the PLO is the primary authority of reference for the National Authority and is considered a central government for the National Authority which is regarded as a local government with no foreign relations.

Commenting on the lukewarm Palestinian-Jordanian relations, he expressed his belief that there is a possibility of removing this lukewarmness.

On the rift in Syrian-Palestinian relations, he explained that the PLO is very eager to consolidate its ties with Syria and that it will not hesitate for a single moment to remove any misunderstanding with Syria.

Qaddumi said he did not participate in the Palestinian National Authority Council because he is in charge of PLO's foreign relations. He noted that he has to stay abroad to supervise all the PLO's political affairs, the refugees issue, and the PLO cadres who remained abroad, whether cadres of the Palestinian military leadership or other Palestinian cadres who have not yet entered Gaza and Jericho.

He affirmed that this has been the basic and primary reason for his nonparticipation in the National Authority, in addition to his reservations at all the agreements signed with Israel.

Qaddumi said he will enter the Palestinian self-rule area when opportunity permits and that he is bound to go there. But, he added, he will not go there with Israeli permission but with a Palestinian one. He noted that therefore he refuses to go there at present and that he will not allow Yitzhaq Rabin to agree on or object to his entry into the Palestinian territories, noting that all this is not linked with the final stage.

'Ashrawi Reacts to Israeli Ban on Political Activity

TA1807152394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Report on interview with West Bank figure Hanan 'Ashrawi by correspondent Razi Barqay at 'Ashrawi's East Jerusalem office on 18 July; italicized passages recorded in English with superimposed translation into Hebrew]

[Text] When we contacted Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi at her East Jerusalem office earlier this afternoon. She was surprised by the Israeli Government draft law to ban Palestinian political activities in Israel. She had not heard about it, and she asked us to read it out to her carefully because, as she put it, she trusts Justice Minister David Liba'i's sophisticated legal language. Here is her reaction to the Israeli Government's draft law which would make the PLO or the Palestinian Authority institutions or members operating inside Israel or in East Jerusalem liable for punishment.

['Ashrawi] *The question has to do with whether this law is going to serve, first of all, the purposes and objectives of the peace process; whether it is going to create an atmosphere conducive to peace or whether it is going to create greater distrust and hostility.*

And, second of all, I think it violated the letter that was signed by Foreign Minister Peres and deposited with Foreign Minister Holst on the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem.

And, number three, I think that there is also a question of the legality of this law.

We asked her whether the Palestinians would be forced to close down Orient House, now that this draft law is being consolidated. Her reply was: No, absolutely not.

['Ashrawi] *Orient House has been a Palestinian institution since 1992, functioning in Jerusalem—not as an instrument of the National Authority—before the Oslo agreement, in order to operate as a basis for the Palestinian team for the peace process. It has gained—again, by precedence—recognition in the way of functioning and operation that cannot be covered by this law. And, I think, it should be able to continue functioning like this, unless the Israeli cabinet or government would like to launch a whole attack against the peace process itself and Palestinian participation in it.*

We seized the opportunity of our phone call to ask for her reaction to what happened yesterday at the Erez checkpoint.

['Ashrawi] *I think that there are basic issues here that have to be dealt with. First of all, the issue of economic depravation and the severe economic situation in the Gaza Strip. Second of all, the use of the power that Israel has to close the Gaza Strip, to impose restrictions, to select numbers of workers. These are, again, inherent in the agreement, which I think are unfair and unjust and we have warned that they are potential causes of conflict and eruption in the future. I think what is needed is the courage to really address these issues and to remove them as causes other than to continue dealing with the outcomes.*

PPSF Calls For United Front To Oppose Oslo Accord

TA1807122794 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 15 Jul 94 p 2

[Text] Ramallah—On occasion of the 27th anniversary of its establishment, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] in the occupied territories issued a statement in which it referred to the Oslo agreement and considered that this agreement does not serve the Palestinian people's aspirations for freedom and independence. The PPSF affirmed a series of principles, including its total refusal to participate in the Palestinian Authority and that the right of return is the natural right of every Palestinian regardless of his tendencies.

The statement called for the establishment of a united national front comprising the forces opposed to the Oslo agreement. The statement also called on Palestine National Council members to boycott the session that will be convened to amend the national covenant.

It is worth noting that the PPSF split into two groups. The wing led by Samir Ghawshah is participating in the Palestinian Authority.

Bethlehem Mayor on 'Army of Hungry People'

TA1807132294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] The strike declared in the territories is continuing in most towns in Judaea and Samaria. In Bethlehem, most businesses are closed, but Manger Square is full of tourists and visitors, and the cafes are open. The town believes the strike will last only today and not the three days announced by the Palestinian leaders. Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj warned, in the wake of yesterday's rioting at the Erez junction, of a revolution by hungry residents of the territories because of high unemployment.

[Begin Frayj recording, in English] I am afraid things will become worse and worse and worse, and the revolution of hungry people is a possibility. How could you expect a father with 10 children and no money to buy them just bread. The chief of staff really spoke in an arrogant humiliating way to the Arabs. We know he has the strongest army, but also we have an army of hungry people. [end recording]

[Amir translates the above and continues] Frayj added that in his view, the presence of 'Arafat in Gaza assisted in calming tempers.

In reference to negotiations with Jordan, Frayj noted that any peace accord with one of the Arab states will only improve the situation for the Palestinians.

[Begin Frayj recording, in English] I believe Jordan is sincere in its efforts to reach a comprehensive, just, and fair peace agreement with Israel, and I hope the peace talks between Jordan and Israel will succeed, that both countries will reach a satisfactory agreement. Any agreement between an Arab country and Israel will be a blessing for our own people, the Palestinians. [end recording]

Frayj is now meeting with an EC delegation headed by Mr. Thomas Dupla, EC representative in the territories, on aid in order to create jobs in Bethlehem.

Algeria

Rumors Circulate Concerning Missing Ambassadors

MM1807153594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Disappearance of Omani and Yemeni Ambassadors in Algeria"]

[Excerpts] Paris—According to reliable sources in the Algerian capital, the ambassadors of the Sultanate of Oman and of Yemen in Algeria have been missing since the day before yesterday [15 July] and there is no news of them so far. [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from certain sources that the North Korean charge d'affaires in Algeria was killed a month ago. The incident and details of his death have not been announced.

Soon after the news of the disappearance of the Yemeni and Omani ambassadors, the Arab ambassadors in Algeria held a meeting to discuss the situation. Meanwhile, there have been rumors in some Algerian circles about the disappearance of the Austrian ambassador but that has not been confirmed. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Dembri Says PRC 'Best Partner'

LD1607203494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri said today in Beijing that the People's Republic of China [PRC] is our best partner. He added that China was among the first countries to recognize the Algerian transitional government. Mohamed Salah Dembri made this statement during his current official visit to China, which will last for five days.

Cited on Relations With China

LD1707200694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Before concluding his visit to China, Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri praised the quality of relations between the two countries to Chinese media. Abdelkader Djelfi:

[Djelfi] Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, who has been paying an official visit to China since 13 July, held a meeting yesterday with Chinese press in Beijing where he stressed the need to establish relations between Algeria and China in numerous tangible projects in the economic and commercial spheres, which would be based more on partnership than on traditional exchange.

Mohamed Salah Dembri praised the quality of the relations existing between the two countries in the scientific, cultural, and medical spheres, as well as some basal projects.

Mohamed Salah Dembri also said that Algeria wanted to develop these relations quantitatively to extend to the electronics, textile, tourism, and public works spheres.

In this context, the chief of Algerian diplomacy mentioned that the minister of small- and medium-sized enterprises would pay an official visit to China in either December or October, heading a delegation of Algerian businessmen to sign many agreements in the aforementioned spheres.

To reiterate, Mohamed Salah Dembri was received the day before yesterday in Beijing by Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng, and gave him a message from Head of State Liamine Zeroual addressed to the Chinese leaders.

'Moderate' Islamic Mayor Murdered in Oran Province

LD1607092094 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] For the first time a member of the moderate Islamic group Party of Algerian Renewal has been assassinated. The victim was a mayor in Oran province. News of the assassination was given to the media by the political party.

Egypt

Source Details Death, Arrest of 'Terrorists'

NC1807160394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—A terrorist has been killed during a security forces sweep in the plantations of the Abnub and al-Fath districts in Asyut, Upper Egypt. Another terrorist was arrested in the operation and a third escaped.

A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry said today that security authorities had information that some terrorists frequent these areas and a security plan was devised to intensify security in this area. Yesterday evening, he added, a police force passing near Bani Murr Village spotted three people trying to escape from an orchard and when the force tried to arrest them, the men fired shots at the force and an exchange of fire ensued. The source said the exchange of fire resulted in the death of one of the men, named 'Abd-al-Tawwab Muhammad Husayn. An automatic rifle and four charged magazines were found near the deceased. It transpired that the rifle and magazines belonged to regular sentry 'Id Amin who was killed in September last year when he was on watch at the Anglican Church in Dayrut.

The security source said Asyut Security commanders, search agencies, and criminal laboratory experts went to inspect the scene while other search agencies pursued the fleeing terrorists.

He added that an al-Fath Police post had received information from the Bani Murr Village head that the residents there arrested a terrorist. When the forces arrived there, they discovered that the detained man was fugitive terrorist Sayyid 'Ali Hammam, alias Salah.

The terrorist confessed that he was in the company of terrorist 'Abd-al-Tawwab Husayn, who was killed, and terrorist Zayn-al-'Abidin Jum'ah, who had a machine gun and managed to escape during the exchange of fire.

It was also learned that the terrorist arrested by the citizens is wanted in connection with criminal case 1386 in Manfalut in which he is charged with possession of 13 kg of explosives.

Search units are still continuing their efforts to arrest the third terrorist.

Prosecutor Orders Trial of Defendants at State Court

NC1807182494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—The Public Prosecutor, Counselor Raja' al-'Arabi, has issued a decree referring 11 leading terrorist and extremist defendants in Dayrut to the Higher State Security Court in Asyut for trial. The defendants will be tried on charges of committing a series of murders and attacks on police officers and men in Dayrut and some citizens and a number of crimes to disturb public order.

Among the suspects in this case are five in custody and six at large. The detainees are Ahmad 'Abd-al-Tawwab 'Abd-al-Hamid Muharram, Khalid 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhammad, Badr Rabi' 'Ali Isma'il, Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Azim Sayyid, and 'Atif Sidqi Nasr.

The fugitives are Mahmud Sayyid Salim, Rif'at Zaydan 'Abdallah, Jamal 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al-Nasir, Saqr Jamal Mahmud, Ayman Hasan Ahmad Hasan, and 'Abd-al-Hamid Mahmud 'Abd-al-Karim.

The prosecution asked the court to apply the criminal code penalties against the defendants, ranging from execution to time-specific or life at hard labor.

The prosecution charged the defendants with joining illegal clandestine groups advocating the call to oppose the fundamental principles of the country's established regime, inciting resistance to the public authorities, and possessing unlicensed firearms, explosives, and ammunition for use in premeditated murder, resisting the authorities, and armed robbery.

The prosecution charged some of the defendants with the premeditated murder of Majdi Zaki Jirjis and the attempted murder of Ashraf Nashid al-Biblawi on the pretext that he helped the police and told the names of extremists. They fired several shots at him that wounded him and three others who happened to be nearby.

The prosecution also charged the defendants with killing Private 'Atif Salim Abu-Hasan when he stood guard at the al-Sha'b Traffic Police Point by firing several shots at him.

The case contains statements made by 25 prosecution witnesses, including seven police officers, nine police assistants and privates, and nine civilians who witnessed the incidents.

The testimony of Dayrut Commander Brigadier General Muhammad Najib indicated that the defendants ambushed him and his accompanying force and fired shots at the car, killing the above-mentioned assistant policeman and wounding him and members of his force.

Other witnesses' statements confirmed that the defendants committed the crimes they are charged with.

Islamic Group Licenses Death of Repentant Members

NC1707095394 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 13 Jul 94 p 14

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ali]

[Text] "Repentant terrorists" Ahmad Rashid and Hasan al-Hillawi have reported that the Islamic Group has accused repentant members of apostasy and licensed their killing.

They said: After the number of repentant members reached more than 800, Islamic Group leaders instructed members who are not in jail to pursue the penitents and punish them.

Ahmad Rashid also reported that the leaders of al-Jihad Organization have approved the "taqiyah" [concealment of beliefs to ensure personal safety] fatwa. Al-Jihad members can therefore exercise taqiyah and pretend to be repentant in order to get out of jail, but can later return to armed action. Al-Jihad approved this practice in view of the drain on its human resources as a result of arrests.

The two repentant members said that as a result of al-Jihad's decision on taqiyah, the security services are imposing numerous restrictions on repentant applicants. They added that 200 al-Jihad members tried to use the fatwa in order to get out of jail.

A senior security official said this practice threatens to ruin the repentance scheme, which at first seemed to greatly undermine the organizations in question.

The two penitent terrorists say all this is happening at a time when negotiations are under way with two prominent jailed terrorist leaders. If agreement is reached, they would proclaim their repentance. One is 'Abd-al-Ra'uf

Amir al-Juyush, who is suspected of involvement in the Technical Military Academy incident and other incidents in 1977, 1979, and 1981, who is regarded as the jailed terrorists' godfather. The other is Nabil Na'im, a prominent official of the extremist al-Jihad Organization.

Labor Party Statement on Dialogue Results

NC1707171794 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Jul 94 p 2

["Text" of statement issued by the Labor Party on the "procedures of the National Dialogue, its results, and the important remarks on the important issues that have been ignored"]

[Text] The Labor Party hopes that this congress of ours will be a beginning for a new tradition in political life asserting the need for dialogue and understanding among the various trends. Within this context, honesty dictates that we record some remarks that have harmed the current dialogue and that we hope will be avoided in any future dialogue, God willing.

1. From the beginning we recorded our criticism of the high proportion of the National Democratic Party [NDP] representatives in the preparatory committee and the congress. Events have proved that all our fears in this regard were correct.

2. The work of the preparatory committee should have been extended so that it could help run the discussions and prepare the necessary studies for the congress. Had there been better preparation, the results of the discussions would have been different.

3. NDP committees drafted the reports and recommendations of the main committees and sub-committees. Undoubtedly, and regardless of good intentions, the NDP's monopolization of this mission affected the degree of understanding of what happened and the correctness of what was written. Moreover, the unreasonable haste in the work of the congress meant that the discussions of the reports and recommendations were superficial.

4. Discussions were either nonexistent or superficial on the level of the sub-committees, the main three committees, and even at the meetings of the congress' office. Discussions were completely nonexistent at the final session of the general congress.

5. We recorded these remarks on every occasion and at every phase of the congress. Regrettably, nobody paid attention to our remarks. Consequently, the final reports were full of shortcomings and faults.

From the beginning, we said that anything issued by this congress would have a general guiding effect but would not be binding on any party participating in the dialogue. This principle was among the principles on which a consensus was reached. Nevertheless, we attach with this statement a number of basic remarks on the reports submitted to correct their contents as well as possible.

I. Basic Remarks on the Political Committee's Report

It is known that the Labor Party focused on the great importance of the work of this committee. Accordingly, we pay great attention to amending the views issued by the Political Committee:

A. Regarding the adoption of effective safeguards for the exercise of political rights, we thank God that a general agreement was reached during the meetings of the Political Committee. However, the points of agreement were scattered in a way that undermined their importance and full significance. Accordingly and on the basis of the report, we print them in the following order:

1. Ensuring the impartiality and fairness of the elections. This requires clearing the electoral lists of any shortcomings or mistakes; revising them periodically and constantly; opening the voter registration list for a longer period, to several months per year; and verifying the identity of the voters when they cast their ballots.

2. Ensuring the judiciary's supervision of the elections to safeguard their integrity and safe procedures.

3. Verifying the identity of the voter by signature or fingerprint and writing down his personal or family card number.

4. Automatic registration in the electoral lists of all men and women entitled to political rights.

Remark: Points 3 and 4 are incorporated in page nine of the report as being among the points on which there was no general agreement. In fact, there was unanimous agreement on them. Point 4 is mentioned in the Interior Ministry's current decisions. What is required is adherence to accuracy in implementing it. Therefore, we believe that the four points should be placed in one place in the report because they are among the foremost of the topics on which there was general agreement on supporting democratic practices.

B. We have noticed that the NDP's political reform topics were the only ones that were described as having won general agreement. This is an incorrect description. Many, including us, refused to have these topics discussed first. Therefore, these topics did not win general agreement, as was said, but were merely an attempt to set the priorities of political reform from the point of view of the NDP. This was countered by the submission of priorities of political reform from the point of view of the Labor Party. While we do not claim that our proposal won general agreement, the same can be said of the NDP proposal. We had hoped that the Labor Party priorities would have been mentioned in the report. They are: Ensuring the integrity of the general elections, safeguarding the minimum human rights, removing the obstacles to party activity, and confronting political violence.

C. The report mentioned several points presented without winning unanimous agreement. However, we are baffled that our views on the various topics raised by the dialogue committee were not included in the report. These include our explanation of the serious obstacles that prevent party activity and subject our supporters to police manhunts. They also include our views on human rights, the need to punish those who violate them, and the greater use of military courts. The report also did not mention our proposals on the need to apply the Islamic shari'ah. The report did not pay attention to explaining the reasons given by each party that had agreed to postpone the discussion of the amendment of the Constitution.

Finally, the report did mention the demand by many, including us, that the influential political trends be invited to the dialogue. We specifically mean the Muslim Brotherhood, who could have participated within the framework of legitimacy if everybody had agreed with us on the optimum importance of this participation.

We hope that these corrections and amendments will be incorporated into the Political Committee's report before it is printed in its final form.

Main Points of Foreign Policy

We notice that the report was superficial and did not set the priorities and the mechanisms for implementation in the way explained by the Labor Party in its working paper, which indicated the following:

1. The decisive importance of Egyptian intrinsic power in drawing up an appropriate regional and international policy.

2. The definition of who is an enemy and who is a friend in our strategic outlook. This specifically means the continuation of caution with Israel.

3. The special relationship with the United States must not be at the expense of relations with other international blocs.

Within this context, we added several points during the dialogue's meetings. We had hoped they would be included in the report in their capacity as topics on which agreement was either reached or not reached.

II. Substantial Observations on the Social and Cultural Committee's Report

Education:

1. The party has rejected the results of the latest conference on basic education, but the committee's report failed to mention this.

2. The party called for improving teaching conditions as a key to education reform, but the report failed to mention it.

3. Our emphasis on the independence of universities and student participation in running their affairs were not mentioned in the report.

Culture and Media:

1. The following must be added: Combating hostile ideas that are alien to the values of the Egyptian society and combating the culture of violence.

2. Ending the government's monopoly on central media organs and opening them up to various political and intellectual trends.

3. Emphasizing the truth in information and the freedom of information flow.

4. Giving particular attention to news and subjects that interest the public and not news of senior officials and their movements.

Health and Environment:

1. The following needs to be added: Encouraging religious habits that ensure hygiene through cleanliness; promoting legal human relations, thus reducing nervous and psychological disorders; and preventing AIDS.

2. Medical services must be offered at prices affordable to all people.

Population:

1. The report did not refer to the party's opposition to the current emphasis on the need to reduce the birth rate. The party believes that emphasis should be placed on the redistribution of the population in the country, prospects for emigration abroad, and increasing rates of economic growth.

Housing:

1. The report did not mention our objection to the government's measures against slums. We believe that the government's policy is responsible for the existence of people without homes and for homes without people, something that forces people to live in slums and in graveyards.

2. We called on the state to assume its role of providing low- cost homes for low-income people.

III. The Economic Committee

We regret to note here that two important paragraphs were omitted from the report after the representatives of the opposition parties had endorsed it and left the room.

1. The first paragraph comes on page 10 and follows clause K. It was proposed by the Labor Party and the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party. The omitted paragraph, which we insist on reinserting, should read: "The confrontation of terrorism requires a close follow-up of dealings between the administrative body and the local and foreign institutions of economic activity, since extensive attempts are being made to

conclude deals that serve private interests at the expense of laws and public interests. The transparency and strictness of the rules organizing work in this domain should fill any gaps of possible corruption. Deterrent penalties are important in this regard. It is necessary for people in high positions in the government to act as a model in this regard. Toward that end, they must submit regular financial and tax statements which must be scrutinized and the results of the scrutiny announced to allay suspicions and stress the principle reward and punishment for all civil servants."

2. The second omitted paragraph comes on page 12 and follows clause F. It was proposed by the Labor, Grouping, and Liberal parties. It reads: "There is a need to be prepared for the arrangements being made in the region to isolate Egypt and weaken the competitive capability of Arab economies in the face of the Israeli economy. The confrontation of the Zionist schemes, which are backed by the United States, requires countermeasures led by Egypt to establish an Arab common market that extends to the Islamic and African neighbors. What is required here is a scientific and daring action undertaken by the state and not mere statements."

Columnist Questions Dialogue Congress Results

NC1607191294 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Jul 94 p 8

["Close-up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah]

[Text] Now that the deliberations that took place in the National Dialogue Congress have ended and the final report summing up the views that were expressed has been issued, it is time for us—we who have been following the deliberations and in whose name the participants were supposed to have spoken—to express our views. Our views may not make a difference, as the final results of the dialogue are less than a resolution that has the force of implementation and more than just a political crackle, because in the final analysis it expresses the views of some of the political forces and segments, even if some parties do not represent anyone but themselves.

We can sum up our views with the following remarks:

1. The most significant outcome of the dialogue was the success of the trend that advocated not amending the Constitution in return for some agreement to reform the law regarding the exercise of political rights to provide more guarantees of fairness, to change the personal election system to the list system without clashing with the Constitution, and to introduce minor changes and get rid of some of the provisions of the ethics law that have only been selectively applied.

In other words, all that was agreed upon was to introduce some corrective measures in the elections process so it would take place correctly and not in the shameful disorganized manner in which it used to take place. The other aspects of political reform have been completely excluded.

2. Apart from this, the outcome of the dialogue did not exceed the expression of wishes, hopes, and general principles about which no two persons will disagree: such as combating terrorism; safeguarding cultural identity, religious values, and free education; protecting low-income people; defending national industry; improving production; rationalizing expenditures; combating pollution; and other wishes that the participants spent a long time explaining without adding anything new.

3. It is unfair to say that the outcome of the dialogue reflected our view of Egypt in the 21st century. It is no more than a reflection of the desire to partially correct some of the prevailing conditions. If the outcome of the dialogue reflects all what we aspire to achieve at the beginning of the next century, this means that we will continue to drag our feet and make no progress. This also means that any talk about the Asian tigers [states with strong economies] is mere illusion and we have no right to hang on to it.

I asked an Asian ambassador from the tiger countries: How do you define your view of your country in the 21st century? He replied: Based on a comprehensive national project to be implemented in all fields, beginning in 1995 and ending in 2020, the per capita income and the total national output should bridge the gap between us and Japan and Europe. The economic and political development projects would be completed according to a specific timetable.

Has the national dialogue resulted in anything like this?

Civil Servant Fired for Writing Antireligious Book

NC1607084694 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Jul 94 p 17

[Report by 'Abd-al-Ghaffar Rushdi]

[Text] The Disciplinary Court had ordered the dismissal from duty of 'Ala'-al-Din Hamid, member of the technical bureau at the Taxation Department, for writing a book titled Al-Firash [The Bed] that undermines social, religious, and moral values, renounces the idea of marriage, and ridicules religious beliefs. The court was presided over by Counselor Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Badi' with counselors Hasan Kamal-al-Din and Sayyid Sultan attending as members.

The court based its verdict on the fact that the writer promotes ideas that reflect moral depravity and contain destructive views that show hatred and spite toward the social and moral order of Egyptian society, which is based on the principles of the noble Islamic religion. The writer, the court noted, criticizes marriage, holds religion in contempt, and glorifies anarchy.

The court noted that since these ideas are well-established in the mind of the writer, they cannot conform with the duties of the position he holds at the Taxation Department, a place in which a large number of women work and one that maintains close contacts with the public. A person with such ethics, the court pointed out, is in no position to deal with his female colleagues or with the taxpayers. By going public with his debased views, the extreme damage caused to his position makes him unsuitable to remain in that position.

Minister on Plan To Control Mosques, Algerian Ties

NC1607090294 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Jul 94 p 10

[Report by Sa'id Halwi]

[Text] Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub has stressed that most of Egypt's mosques have been secured against extremism. He added that now they all speak the language of the moderate Islamic religion that shuns extremism and adopts a middle-of-the- road line in all affairs, although some minor observations remain that will be eliminated soon. Dr. Mahjub pointed out that programs for orienting senior and junior ulema on advances in science, in addition to religious subjects, have proved successful both for the ulema themselves and for youngsters and mosque goers.

Dr. Mahjub made these remarks in a meeting yesterday with Algerian Communication Minister Mohamed Benamar Zerhouni. The meeting was attended by Algerian Ambassador Ali Ben Mohamed, the delegation accompanying the Algerian minister, and leading officials from the Ministry of Awqaf. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed Egypt's experiment in confronting terrorism and extremism, particularly in the religious domain.

Dr. Mahjub noted that an agreement had been reached with governors not to permit the construction of any mosque anywhere without the prior approval of the Ministry of Awqaf. This, he added, will bring to an end the construction of unlicensed mosques and is in line with the ministry's plan. Under this plan, 60,000 mosques have been brought under the ministry's control and the remaining privately run mosques will be annexed by the end of next year.

For his part, the Algerian minister emphasized that like Egypt, Algeria makes a distinction between adherence to religion and terrorism out of its firm belief that the first is desirable and needed while the latter could lead the society to undesirable consequences. Dr. Mahjub agreed to receive a number of Algerian mosque preachers and ulema for a one-month training course in Cairo along with their Egyptian colleagues. He also agreed to send to Algeria as many Egyptian preachers as Algeria wants and to provide books refuting the extremist ideas to be distributed among youngsters and at mosques and Islamic centers there.

Dailies: Erez Riots Will Harm Peace Process

NC1907074294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian newspapers were unanimous in their commentaries today that the bloody incidents at the Erez checkpoint in Gaza the day before yesterday will harm the peace process. The papers called on Israel to adopt the necessary measures so that such incidents may not recur. The papers highlighted Egypt's call for the need to sidestep violations of the agreements signed by the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

AL-AHRAM noted that President Mubarak warned previously that failure to assist the Palestinian Authority will be catastrophic for the peace process and set it back 20 years. The paper added that out of a desire to maintain the peace process, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has warned against any attempt to cast doubts on the self-rule authority's ability to keep control, adding that such an attempt would first and foremost endanger the peace process and not, as some extremists in Israel imagine, simply embarrass the Palestinian Authority. The paper pointed out that the Erez incident shows that the Israeli authorities deliberately harassed the Palestinian workers who depend on jobs in Israel as a kind of punishment for having their own national authority. The paper supported Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's call for the need to immediately deploy international observers in the self-rule areas, adding that their presence would reduce friction between the Palestinians and Israelis and reassure the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

In its commentary, AL-AKHBAR pointed out that Israel did not hesitate to use its army to kill and wound Palestinian citizens, thus spoiling the joy they felt after regaining their sovereignty over part of their occupied territories. The paper noted that the tragedy at the Erez checkpoint reveals a very important point, namely, Israel's use of thousands of workers from Gaza and other Palestinian territories to work inside Israel for meager salaries. The paper pointed out that if most of the workers in the occupied territories are forced to accept jobs for Israeli businessmen and factory owners because of unemployment and tough economic conditions in Gaza, Jericho, and other occupied areas, the time has come to shut down this source of cheap labor for Israel, at least in the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho. The paper added: Some Western states have promised to give aid to the Palestinian Authority but have not made good their promise. So why does the Arab League not invite Arab businessmen to invest some of their money in these two Palestinian areas? These investors, the paper adds, could build productive projects that offer jobs for the unemployed Palestinian workers, who would otherwise have to queue in humiliation for work in Israeli factories and farms under tough conditions.

U.S. Credited for Jordanian-Israeli Progress

NC1707212994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has stated that the Palestinian-Israeli autonomy agreement and the significant progress being made on the Jordanian-Israeli track are among the most important achievements on the path to peace.

In a commentary in its Monday issue, the paper says that as a result of these two accomplishments, the Middle East has made a significant move toward comprehensive, permanent, and just peace. The paper notes that the credit for the progress between Jordan and Israel goes to U.S. diplomacy. The paper adds that significant progress toward a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict can only be made with effective and direct participation of U.S. diplomacy.

AL-AHRAM notes that major achievements have been made on the path of peace between the Arab states and Israel during the more than two years [as received] in which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has been in office. The paper adds that the United States must exert great efforts to achieve the desired progress on the Syrian-Israeli track, because peace in the Middle East without Syria will remain fragile and will not be comprehensive.

Source Denies Border Violation Claims by Sudan

MM1807154194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Jul 94 p 6

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqiyy: "Cairo Denies Egyptian Troops Entered Arqin"]

[Text] Cairo—An Egyptian diplomatic source has stressed that Egyptian forces "have not fired a single shot on the Egyptian-Sudanese border," nor have they moved from their lines north of the 22d parallel.

The source said: "Sudanese media services have persisted in spreading unfounded allegations merely to win the people's sympathy at the expense of relations between the two peoples."

The source added in a statement to AL-HAYAH yesterday that "Cairo is tired of the noise Sudanese media services are making regarding the Hala'ib triangle." The source pointed out that his country refuses to engage in media clamors to reply to fabricated lies promoted by Sudanese newspapers.

The source expressed his interest in relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples.

The source pointed out that Sudanese media services have recently made allegations about Egypt's support for al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the Sudanese opposition Ummah Party, and its interference in Sudan's internal affairs. And when they realized that this "lie" had received no response, they began to make new allegations, namely that two Sudanese soldiers have been killed by Egyptian soldiers.

Iranian Economic Delegation Arrives on Visit

NC1807064894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—An Iranian economic and industrial delegation arrived in Cairo today on a few days' visit to Egypt. The delegation is led by Morteza Arami, governor of the Bank-e Melli investment bank; and Asghar Fakhr Kashani, deputy governor of the Iranian Central Bank. During the visit, the Iranian delegation will meet with the minister of economy, minister of the business sector, the Central Bank governor, and a number of senior officials to discuss ways of consolidating economic and industrial relations and to explore investment opportunities, particularly in the sugar and related industries.

Libya

Joint Committee With Chad Concludes Meetings

First Round Talks Held

LD1507123294 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Excerpt] The Great Jamahiriyah has hosted the meetings of the first round of the Libyan Arab-Chadian Higher Joint Committee. The minutes of the meetings of this committee were signed last night in Tripoli and included the establishment of a framework for cooperation and integration in the fields of trade exchange, investment, industry, agriculture, education, culture and information.

The Chadian side stressed the need to strengthen and develop the relations of brotherly cooperation to serve the mutual interests of the peoples of the Great Jamahiriyah and Chad. In his address at the signing of the minutes of the Libyan Arab-Chadian Higher Joint Committee, the Chadian foreign minister said that the results of the committee's meetings had confirmed the mutual desire to bolster cooperation between the two countries. He indicated that Chad and the Great Jamahiriyah had provided the best example of building relations and cooperation and stressed that Africa is capable of leading itself. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Deby Message

LD1607193394 Tripoli JANA in English 1743 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Libyan Arab-Chadian Joint Higher Committee today concludes its meetings and sign the minutes of its first session including complementarity programmes between the Great Jamahiriyah and Chad, the signing of an accord for the movement and residence of persons and encouraging investments, the trade accord and accords of cultural, scientific and technical cooperation.

The leader of the revolution has already received the Chadian prime minister who conveyed to him a message from President Idris Deby which stressed the following: Allow me to congratulate on behalf of the president of the republic of Chad Col. Idris deby, the Chadian Government and the Chadian people and me personally for this revolutionary achievement realized in this country since you assumed its leadership almost a quarter of a century ago. Development was acheived in all economic, social and cultural sectors reviving. They are great achievements. You have fulfilled the happiness and aspirations. You have transformed the country into a heavan and the Libyan people should be proud of it. Your great success in all fields fuelled hatred in those with spiteful heart especially the imperialist and colonialists who sought by all means to wage aggression against you.

The Great Jamahiriyah as from now on will not stand alone. We will stand by you and you should rely on us. We are one family linked to each other by historical bonds of blood and other factors including religion, culture and geography. We are one African people but spiteful imperialist and colonialism came to divide us, control us, set us against each other, exploit us and humiliate us.

You have always fought in a heroic manner against these forces and hoisted the flag of struggle for African freedom against imperialism and colonialism.

The unjust, arbitrary and barbaric embargo imposed on the brotherly libyan people show the bad intentions of our common enemies, the enemies of Africa and enemies of our peoples' who decided to annihilate us.

Before this situation, the president of the Republic of Chad Idris Deby and I personally as your younger brother and prime minister elected by the parliament which represents the Chadian people firmly decided to support the brotherly Libyan people and the leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution until final victory and the defence for Africa to be an eternal defence.

We say that you are defending just, noble and honourable causes which we laud and support. We struggle within your ranks regardless of the price and result for we are fully convinced that you are defending all Africa. You are defending the dignity and honour of Africa. Hence this is our common cause which you are defending. Idris Deby, our government and all the Chadian people and I pledge ourselves to defend you everywhere and under all circumstances at international and African levels so as to remove together the challenges and force a vicious and vile imperialism and colonialism to lift the measures enabling the brotherly Libyan people to recover their freedom of activities and rights.

Dear brother leader of the African revolution you are the greatest man of this epoch. We stress that you are one of us and that we are one family hence one people. As you are aware we have become ourselves also a victim of colonialism who robbed everything from us. They exploited us. They have imposed on us an embargo in a different way through the reduction of the values of the African Franc causing bad results to the Chadian people on economic and social levels so much so that life became unbearable and hell. We therefore urge you to come for our salvage and no on can think of you leaving us to our fate in this plight for you are a member of our family. Accordingly all mankind know your highly esteemed position, your noble stances and wide hands which made you a man salvaging mankind and in solidarity with all those oppressed by [word indistinct], imperialism and colonialism.

This is the message I carry for Your Excellency from your brother the Republic of Chad Idris Deby.

Minutes of Joint Committee Signed

LD1607224994 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The signing of minutes of the meetings of the first session of the Arab Libyan-Chadian Higher Joint Committee took place in Tripoli this morning. The minutes were signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee and Chadian Prime Minister Nouradeen Kassire Delwa Koumakoye. [passage omitted]

The secretary of the General People's Committee made an address in which he praised the results reached by the Arab Libyan-Chadian Higher Joint Committee which would serve mutual interests. He said that ties of history, civilization, and the one religion and culture that link the two peoples are an incentive for achieving economic and social integration between the two countries by building strong brotherly relations within the African continent.

Chadian Prime Minister Nouradeen Kassire Delwa Koumakoye made an address in which he praised the spirit of understanding and seriousness during the meetings of the first ordinary session of the Arab Libyan-Chadian Higher Joint Committee. He reiterated Chad's condemnation of the unjust measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah. He said: We reiterate our intention to struggle to lift these unjust measures. He went on to say: The agreements that have been signed by the Great Jamahiriyah and Chad represent the best example for cooperation between the two peoples. The results of the dialogue we have held with our brothers in the Great Jamahiriyah will be positive through the coordination of political stances taken by our two countries in international forums.

Minutes of the meetings of the first ordinary session of the Arab Libyan-Chadian Higher Joint Committee stressed the need for bolstering joint cooperation in spheres of agriculture, energy, health, transport, information, and culture. It has been agreed to promote cooperation between the Libyan and Chadian news agencies, radio and television stations, and open cultural centers in both countries. The minutes also noted the mutual satisfaction regarding the work of the Arab Libyan-Chadian Bank and called for its support from the two countries. The minutes also included an agreement on promoting and guaranteeing investment, encouraging agricultural investment by nationals from the two countries, regulating the residence and the movement of individuals, and cooperation in spheres of water resources and veterinary medicine.

Press Statement on Meeting Issued

LD1707222394 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 Jul 94

["Text" of press statement issued "yesterday at the end of the meetings of the first session of the Libyan Arab-Chadian Joint Higher Committee's meeting"]

[Text] Within the framework of the historical ties between the Libyan Arab and Chadian brotherly peoples; on the basis of the directives of the leader of the great al-Fatih revolution and President Idriss Deby of the Republic of Chad; out of a desire to bolster relations of fraternity, cooperation, and integration between the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Chad and in implementation of the Friendship, Good-Neighborliness, and Cooperation Treaty signed in Tripoli 4 June 1994, the Libyan Arab-Chadian Joint Higher Committee held the meetings of its first session in Tripoli from 13th to 16th of July 1994, in the presence of brother engineer 'Abd-al-Majid Mabruk al-Qa'ud, secretary of the General People's Committee, and Dr. Nouradeen Kassire Delwa Koumakoye, prime minister of Chad, and with the participation of some secretaries of specific General People's Committees and Chadian ministers.

The brother leader of the revolution received Prime Minister Dr. Nouradeen Kassire Delwa Koumakoye and the ministers participating in the meetings of the Higher Committee in the presence of the secretary of the General People's Committee and some secretaries of specific General People's Committees.

The prime minister conveyed to the brother leader the greetings of his brother Colonel Idriss Deby of the Republic of Chad and his emphasis on the development of relations of integration and cooperation between the two brotherly peoples in view of the historical, social ties, and links between them. He reaffirmed the Chadian people's solidarity with its brother Libyan Arab people in facing the unjust measures imposed on it.

The brother leader gave his advice on the need for strengthening, developing, and implementing programs of economic, social, and cultural integration between the two brotherly countries.

The committee reviewed its agenda that included spheres of economic, social, educational and technical cooperation, and integration. At the opening meeting, the Chadian prime minister and the brother secretary of the General People's Committee expressed their satisfaction at the progress of the Libyan-Chadian bilateral relations that reflected a common will.

The meetings of the Higher Joint Committee took place in an atmosphere of true brotherhood, symbolizing the affiliation of the two brotherly peoples to the identities of African and Arab civilizations.

The committee reviewed the report, submitted to it by the Preparatory Committee, which included sectors of economic, social and cultural cooperation, and integration, as well as the programs of implementation and the agreements prepared in order to achieve the residence and movement of individuals between the two countries. The report also included the foundations for trade, investment, and cultural relations. The meetings of the Higher Joint Committee dealt with joint programs in the sectors of energy, farming, industry, joint investment, trade, customs and banking relations, in addition to the relations in sectors of culture, education, information, and security.

The minutes of a meeting, a trade agreement, an agreement on promoting and guaranteeing investment, a special agreement on the movement of individuals between Chad and Libya, and an agreement on cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation were signed.

The Higher Joint Committee approved a mechanism for permanent political consultation between the two countries on regional and international issues, with a view to unify their views and stances regarding the developments of these issues, especially the ones related to bolstering security, stability, and cooperation between countries bordering the Sahara. Bilateral political consultation will also include issues affecting the African continent's peoples. The Chadian prime minister reiterated his country's solidarity and support for the Arab Libyan people in its resistance in the face of the measures imposed on it. He stressed that the negative effects of these measures have had a harmful impact on the peoples of the countries neighboring the Great Jamahiriyah. He demanded a just solution for this issue in accordance with Arab and African initiatives.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee praised the stances of the Chadian people stressing the Chadian and Arab Libyan peoples' common determination to strengthen bilateral cooperation and integration and their struggle to bolster stability and security in the region, and to face the challenges aimed at destabilizing Libya's and Chad's security and stability, noting his satisfaction at the political and social progress achieved in the Republic of Chad on the path of securing stability and building progress.

Prime Minister Praises 'Positive' Results

LD1707084494 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 17 Jul—Prime Minister of Chad Nouradeen Kassire Delwa Koumakoye and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this morning [passage indistinct] the first session of the Libyan-Chadian Higher Joint Committee. [passage omitted]

Chadian Prime Minister Nouradeen Kassire Koumakoye made a statement to JANA in which he expressed his satisfaction at the positive results achieved by the meetings of the first round of the Libyan Arab-Chadian Higher Joint Committee. He stressed that these results had laid firm and strong foundations for cooperation between the two brotherly peoples in the Great Jamahiriyah and Chad.

In his statement, the Chadian prime minister reiterated the stance of the Chadian people and government beside the Great Jamahiriyah and their solidarity with it in confronting the unjust measures imposed on it by the so-called Security Council. [passage omitted]

Chadian President Contacts al-Qadhdhafi; No Details

LD1907082894 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] President Idriss Deby, president of the Republic of Chad, had a telephone contact with the leader of the revolution.

Salih to al-Qadhdhafi: Yemen Needs Arab Help

LD1907075994 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] A telephone contact took place between the brother leader of the revolution and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in sisterly Yemen. During the telephone contact, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih called on the brother leader of the revolution to carry out his strong role in connection with uniting the Arab nation and extending help and support to the Yemeni people after they have achieved their unity.

The Yemeni president also called on the brother leader to instigate the Arab nation to side beside the Yemeni unity and provide all the help and assistance which the sons of Yemen need, particularly in the medical and [word indistinct] spheres.

Information Minister, Yemeni Counterpart Meet

LD1507213794 Tripoli JANA in English 1804 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, Nasser [Jul] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture met last night in Cairo with Hasan al-Lawzi, the information minister of the Republic of Yemen.

The two sides discussed during this meeting cooperation in the fields of information and culture and coordination between the news agencies of the great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Yemen.

Also the meeting discussed coordination between broadcasting stations and distributing publications between the Great Jamahiriyah and Yemen.

During this meetimg an agreement was reached on a visit to be undertaken in the next few days by a Libyan Arab information delegation to Yemen and an invitation was issued to the Yemeni minister to visit the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Yemeni delegate to the Arab League was present at the meeting.

Israeli, Palestinian Clashes in Gaza Viewed

LD1807051494 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Experiences of struggle fought by struggling peoples to recover their rights demonstrate that recognizing those rights could only come as a result of sacrifices and not through surrender to or negotiation with the enemy who takes the land by force, violates sanctities, and kills and displaces innocents.

In fact, through all periods of history, no enemy has admitted its injustice and its violations through negotiations around tables or in dialogues in halls. The only way peoples could regain their freedom and stolen rights has always been the path of bitter and long struggle. This is a real and plain truth demonstrated by daily experiences that are sufficient as absolute proof that the Israeli enemy or its Western allies would change their stances and practices only by circumvention and swindling to oppress and devour the Palestinian rights and existence that are hard to oppress.

This self-evident truth has repeatedly imposed itself in the struggle and conflict fought by the Palestinian people, who refuse to surrender to the Israeli occupation soldiers. To be more specific, this truth imposes itself on those who live under illusions, whether they are individuals or countries, those who organized the world and distributed conflicts in it in line with their own views, or rather their illusions that are destroyed after the first test on the ground of reality.

Before the eyes of the world and the United Nations, which is asking Arabs to observe its resolutions imposed by colonialist countries in the so-called Security Council, Israeli occupants continue to manifest their brutal hostility against the Arab Palestinian people in the form of the most hideous and racist crimes against humanity.

The Israeli terrorists this morning committed a cold-blooded crime that led to the killing of 11 Palestinian nationals and the wounding of over another 100 in the violent clashes that took place in the Gaza Strip between Palestinian revolutionaries refusing surrender and the Israeli criminal soldiers.

This is the case for the Israelis. They do whatever they like before the world's eyes and ears and under the slogans of so-called peace and international legitimacy. They kill and displace people, violate sanctities, send the legitimate landowners to prison, and force all kinds of torture upon them in small cells. They confiscate property and seal off cities. These are the Israelis, free to do whatever they like with no deterrent force to halt them. How many resolutions have been issued by the so-called UN Security Council? They were all were breached by the great wolves before the ink of their signature could dry. These are the racist, terrorist, and brutal Israelis. They lose no opportunity to humiliate the Arabs and confirm in practice, every day, that killing an Israeli is forbidden, while the Palestinian could not be considered a member of mankind and the shedding of his blood is permitted. The Israeli has the right to kill the Palestinian without being convicted. He would deserve thanks and praise for that. The rule has then become: Shed the blood of he whose land has been occupied, and free the invader. [passage omitted]

Today, as the world witnesses this tragedy in Gaza under the umbrella of the so-called Palestinian police and before the eyes and the ears of those who call for surrender and negotiate with the enemy on kneeling down and surrendering, what can it say? What can it do or wonder? Malediction follows them wherever they go.

Revolutionaries of the angry generation all over the Palestinian territory are capable of pursuing the armed struggle supported by the Palestinian people in cities, villages, and refugee camps. They are also able to spoil all of Israel's schemes. The Israelis have admitted their failure in bringing to an end the increasingly popular revolution against the Israeli machine of oppression. [passage omitted]

As the brother leader of the revolution has warned on several occasions, the Arab nation and the Palestinian people would not take such brutal massacres. The Hebrew state would not be able to sustain the revenge in the future except that the world wanted to get rid of the Jews by giving them this state to become their cemetery. We do not want to exterminate Jews, but we would not tolerate further massacres against the Palestinian people. There is then no solution apart from the removal of the Hebrew state and the declaration of the Palestinian state that would unite Palestinians and Jews.

The great popular revolution fought by the Palestinian revolutionaries every day are marked by history. Their slogan is liberation from south to south [as heard] and from the river to the sea, and no to surrender and negotiation with the enemy. It is impossible to make them surrender. They refuse, with pride and firm determination, to recognize the false and unjust reality.

Sudan

Al-Turabi Willing To Open Dialogue With Egypt

MM1807125594 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 Jul 94 p 4

[Interview with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Sudanese National Islamic Front and secretary general of the Arab Islamic Popular Conference, by Hasanayn Kurum in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Kurum] Are you willing to open contact channels between you and the regime in Egypt and to accept an invitation to hold a dialogue with it in order to clarify your position and to find out at first hand the regime's stance about the accusations leveled at you and the Islamic Front as regards supporting terrorists?

[Al-Turabi] Egypt is closer to Sudan by virtue of the values that have bound us since the pharaonic era and the emergence of Islam, as well as the Nile waters and contemporary history.

I visited Egypt in 1985 and met with the ruling and ruled quarters, and I also met with President Mubarak. Egypt and Sudan are the heart of the Arab world in terms of size and position. And out agreement and union is a necessary foundation for the achievement of Arab unity and the establishment of the Islamic edifice on it.

So, if I am invited by any quarter tomorrow, I would accept the invitation immediately, provided it does not cause any sensitivity or embarrassment to the official quarters.

[Kurum] I mean an invitation from the regime to hold a dialogue with it directly, not with other quarters?

[Al-Turabi] I would respond and accept the invitation immediately, visit Egypt, and hold a dialogue with the regime.

[Kurum] Even if you knew that officials would raise the issue of your support for terrorists in Egypt?

[Al-Turabi] That suspicion does not actually exist. And the cloud lingering over relations between the two states could clear if Egypt agrees to send an official delegation to visit every part of the country, inspect every inch of it, and talk to anyone it wants to talk to.

The story of our support for terrorists is promoted by the United States to the point that it has included Sudan on the list of the states supporting terrorism. But the European states and Britain, which know Sudan better, did not respond to its request. [passage omitted]

[Kurum] You have been invited by the United States and a number of European states. Is it a U.S. attempt to reassess its position toward Islamic movements?

[Al-Turabi] The U.S. people seem not to know what is happening in the world outside the United States. Nor do they know anything about world cultures, especially Islam. And they do not adopt a hostile position toward Islam, because they have not inherited the spirit of the crusades and imperialism.

But the U.S. government, which has no political power [tafwidan siyasiyyan] with regard to foreign affairs, is easily influenced by pressure groups.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, and because of the reports submitted to the United States by some regimes that abhor the Islamic awakening, the United States began to take a hostile position toward Islam and its movements. However, for some time now it has been reconsidering its position somewhat because of dialogue and the facts, and it might agree to initiate a dialogue with leaders of the Islamic tendencies. This is why I was invited in this context and was exposed to an incident in Canada, which I hope was an accident.

Media Accuse Egypt of Border Violations

MM1507121294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] Khartoum, AL-HAYAH—Official media services in Khartoum accused the Egyptian Government yesterday of infiltrating the common border in Arqin [as transliterated], east of River Nile and south of Aswan city. The daily newspaper AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH said that an Egyptian force of two officers and 23 soldiers crossed the border into Sudanese territory and requested Sudanese troops to withdraw from Arqin within 48 hours. It added that Egyptian troops set up a camp in the Arqin bulge and that helicopters equipped with rockets persisted in crossing the common border and flying over Sudanese camps. Egyptian activities have increased on the border, and the Sudanese have been prevented from entering Egyptian territory.

It has been learned that tension returned to Sudanese-Egyptian relations this month after Khartoum accused Cairo of participating in an attempt to carry out bombings and assassinations with support from the opposition Ummah Party.

Official on Transportation Cooperation With Iraq

EA1707133794 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Khartoum, 16 July (SUNA)—Faysal Muhammad Lutfi, first under secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, has confirmed the expansion of cooperation between the ministries of transport of Sudan and Iraq in various fields. His excellency told SUNA that an Iraqi delegation of experts in the fields of ports and maintenance of cranes, river, and mechanized transport, would arrive in the country soon. His excellency added that cooperation with Iraq also included railways, river transport, roads, and bridges. He referred to the recent arrival in Sudan of Iraqi experts in the fields of river transport and railways.

Kuwait

Official on Iraqi Invitation for Reconciliation

LD1807124094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1013 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 18 Jul (KUNA)—'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs, has stressed that any efforts for reconciliation and peace with the Iraqi regime should pass through the real entrance represented by the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy.

He said that "the Iraqi regime should firstly implement all the UN Security Council's resolutions in connection with the war of liberating the State of Kuwait as reported, and we could after that examine the issue of any Iraqi invitation for reconciliation, if it was originally real and in existence."

This came in an exclusive statement given by the minister al-Dakhil to KUNA upon his departure today heading for Cairo at the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart, counsellor Ahmad Radwan. [passage omitted]

First Compensation Payment Reportedly Received

LD1607122894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 Jul—It was stated here today that the State of Kuwait has received the first payment of compensation to the tune of 1.4 million dollars for claims in class 'B' pertaining to grievous bodily harm or death, and that it is expected to be paid out on 2 August.

In a statement to AL-SIYASAH, Dr. Adil Asim, the director-general of the public body for the assessment of compensation for losses resulting from the Iraqi aggression, said that Kuwait had received this amount after it had been agreed by the UN Compensations Commission and that it had been transferred to the compensations account of the central bank's account in Geneva.

He said that the public body for the assessment of compensation and the Ministry of Finance were working to coordinate, organize, and determine the means of disbursing it.

It is to be recalled that the total losses for which Kuwait is making claims amounted at the end of June to about 27 billion dinars (95 billion dollars), payable for about 220,176 claims of different classes. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Official Meets Russian Ambassador

LD1807164494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Jul—Acting Undersecretary Khalid Sulayman al-Jarallah today met the Russian Federation Ambassador Petr Stegniya.

A responsible source at the Foreign Affairs Ministry informed KUNA that the meeting focused on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

During the meeting, the Russian ambassador affirmed his country's firm stance on the need for Iraq to comply with all international resolutions pertaining to its aggression on the State of Kuwait.

Paper Criticizes King Husayn's Meeting With Rabin

LD1807092294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0733 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Jul (KUNA)— A Kuwaiti newspaper commented here today on the talks due to be held today between Jordan and Israel in Wadi 'Arabah and the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli summit scheduled to take place in Washington next week.

In an editorial entitled "The King's Messages," the AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM newspaper pointed out that with these talks King Husayn is seeking primarily "to justify his joining the separate solution settlement (?to support) Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin openly."

The newspaper said that, by his decision to negotiate with the Israelis, King Husayn is sending three messages. The first of these is addressed to the Jordanian opposition represented by the Islamic trend. The newspaper went on to say that the second message is addressed to the Palestinian people "whom King Husayn put at the top of the reasons pushing him to this difficult [word indistinct]."

As for the last of these messages, he is addressing it to whoever it may concern. The intention is that "interpreting it becomes possible in light of the recent developments, after the king has presented himself as a person with a vision that agrees with the Zionist plan."

At the end of its comment, the newspaper stressed that King Husayn has not always been at the same level of wisdom in "calculating international adventures. He is entering a tunnel and could plunge deeply into the darkness of isolation. He might not wake up before he hurts his head like a deluded person bumping into a solid wall."

Yemen

'Source' Denies al-Bid To Remain Out of Politics

NC1807124594 Paris AFP in English 1117 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, July 18 (AFP)—An exiled southern Yemeni leader denied Monday [18 July] that the self-declared president of breakaway south Yemen 'Ali Salim al-Bid had given up politics for good.

He told AFP by telephone from the Saudi Arabian city of Jiddah "we deny that al-Bid has renounced politics" as Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas maintained in Sanaa on June 11.

Al-Bid fled to Oman just before northern Yemeni troops captured the southern cities of Aden and al-Mukalla ending the two-month bitter civil war.

According to the source, who asked to remain anonymous, al-Bid signed a statement issued Sunday by the "presidential council" of the breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic.

It called on the international community to "force the regime in Sanaa to end its crimes in Aden which place it among terrorist regimes."

In the initial days following the fall of Aden on July 7, looters including northern soldiers and tribesmen stripped the city bare.

The statement also said international pressure should be brought to bear on Sanaa to "stop imposing a military solution on political differences and start unconditional talks" with the southerners.

The source in Jiddah confirmed the two sides were to hold talks in Paris under the auspices of the United Nations saying they would take place on July 28.

War erupted between southern troops loyal to al-Bid and those of his northern rival President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on May 5 after months of tension over how to run the country, which was created when the former North and South Yemen were merged in May 1990.

Al-Bid declared the breakaway republic on May 21 but it was never officially recognised by any country.

A northern leader told AFP Saturday that Sanaa would be represented by Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ali al-Iryani at the meeting aimed at establishing "conditions for the beginning of a national political dialogue in Yemen."

The source said the breakaway republic's appointed "prime minister" Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas would represent the south.

Al-Bid Breaks Silence, Contacts Officials

MM1807155594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Jifri: What is Happening Is Occupation, Not Unity; al-Bid Abandons His Silence, Speaks to Salim Salih"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, has abandoned his silence and contacted—for the first time since he moved to the Sultanate of Oman some two weeks ago—Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the party, and Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, defense minister of the "Democratic Republic of Yemen" [DRY]. He had a long conversation with them the day before yesterday.

Yemeni sources contacted from London have said that al-Bid assured them about the possibility of his resuming his political activities after a period of rest. Al-Bid spoke also to 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council in the DRY, who remained in touch with him during his stay in al-Mukalla and after he moved to the Sultanate of Oman. Al-Bid told those with whom he spoke: "We will meet after a period of time and will draw up plans for the future."

In London, AL-HAYAH has learned from Yemeni sources that al-Bid's delay in contacting other officials is attributable to his severe exhaustion and low blood pressure. However, this has not prevented him from getting in touch recently with the Yemenis who turned to Oman following recent events.

In this context al-Jifri stressed to AL-HAYAH that what is currently happening in southern and eastern governorates "is not a unification process, but, rather, a process of plundering everything, including public and private money." He spoke about "violating people's honor" and about "looting in the remote governorate of al-Mahrah." He said that "it is an occupation in every sense of the word. It is a process of plundering public and private wealth, and our people will never forget this, and no one should think that they can possibly forget what is happening at present: looting, robbery, and rape. They will remember all this for generations. The actions that followed the end of the war have driven another wedge into Yemeni unity."

North, South Officials To Discuss Reconciliation

NC1707074694 Paris AFP in English 0223 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, July 17 (AFP)—Senior officials from northern and southern Yemen are to meet in Paris before the end of the month to discuss reconciliation in the wake of the destructive civil war, a Sanaa government source said Saturday [16 July].

Planning minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, a northerner, and former prime minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, who joined the southern secession attempt led by former vice-president 'Ali Salim al-Bid, would meet under the auspices of UN mediator Lakhdar Brahimi, the source said.

They would discuss "the ways and means to begin a national dialogue, in line with resolutions of the UN Security Council on Yemen" passed during the two-month civil war which ended with the fall of Aden to northern forces on July 7.

The source said the two would be joined by Yemen's UN ambassador 'Abdallah al-Ashtal and 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, "foreign minister" of the "Democratic Republic of Yemen" declared at the end of May by al-Bid but unrecognised by any state.

Al-'Attas, who was also named "prime minister" by al-Bid, is officially under threat of an arrest warrant issued by Sanaa against 16 southern leaders at the height of the conflict.

But he met with al-Iryani several times at UN headquarters in the last days of the war.

Defense Council Approves Plan To Restructure Army

JN1807200994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] The National Defense Council today held a meeting under brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces. The Council examined recent national developments, and discussed several issues related to the future national construction endeavor in the aftermath of the failure of the rebellion and internal sedition created by the rebels, who violated constitutional legitimacy to tear the homeland's unity apart.

The Council also debated the moves and efforts currently under way to rebuild the country and contain the regrettable impact of the sedition to promote the country's higher interests. The Council also discussed a plan submitted by Defense Minister brother Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur on rebuilding and restructuring the Armed Forces on proper and modern scientific and national bases that would promote our country's defense capabilities and enable our Armed Forces to perform their sacred national duties with a high degree of competence.

The National Defense Council endorsed the plan, and stressed the need to start implementing it urgently as of the beginning of next week. The Council also underscored the importance of mobilizing and marshalling all national efforts at this critical stage in the history of our homeland and people in order to meet the challenges posed by the post-rebellion phase, address the destruction and damage caused by the sedition, devote all official and popular potentials to reconstruction, cope with the obstructions of the past, entrench national unity, and build a modern Yemeni state.

The Council further underlined the provisions enshrined in the statement issued by the Presidential Council on 7 July 1994, which spelled out bases for unleashing a national reconstruction endeavor to achieve further progress and realize the aspirations and ambitions of the Yemeni people in terms of renaissance and progress under the canopy of unity and democracy. It also highlighted the directives enshrined in the statement issued by the Presidential Council regarding the implementation of Law No. 1 of 1994 concerning general amnesty, compensation for the damage sustained by citizens during the sedition started by rebels, continued adherence to the democratization process and the multiparty system, respect for the freedom of expression, compliance with the principles of human rights, upholding dialogue under the canopy of constitutional legitimacy, commitment to national constants, broadening the base of popular participation in the decisionmaking process, promoting local government on the basis of administrative and financial decentralization, and building a free market economy.

The National Defense Council reiterated the Republic of Yemen's eagerness to promote and enhance its relations with all brothers and friends, particularly neighbors, on the basis of positive cooperation, mutual respect, noninterference in domestic affairs, and doing all that could promote security and stability in the region and the world at large in the interest of all parties.

The National Defense Council expressed its appreciation for all brothers and friends who supported our Yemeni people during their ordeal, and expressed a sincere eagerness to support unity and democracy in our country, thus epitomizing the depth and strength of the relations existing between our country and their countries. The Council asserted that a united and strong Yemen cannot but be a factor of security, wellbeing, and peace to all its brothers and friends.

The National Defense Council discussed several topics listed on its agenda related to rebuilding the Armed Forces to render it a pioneering national institution that is capable of shouldering its developmental and defense responsibilities, and made the appropriate decisions.

House Speaker on Unity, Post-War Plans

NC1807094594 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 13 Jul 94 pp 1, 12

[Interview with 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, House of Representatives speaker and leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, by Sami Kulayb in Sanaa; date not given]

[Text] [Kulayb] Did the group you refer to as apostate become so after the war or were you aware of its designs before that, particularly since you, along with the General People's Congress [GPC], shared power with it?

[Al-Ahmar] This secessionist and apostate clique should have ended the moment it declared its apostasy against Islam and its adoption of Marxist doctrine.

[Kulayb] But despite this, you took part with the "apostates" in the presidential coalition to lead Yemen?

[Al-Ahmar] That was for the sake of unity, which was brought about by peace. They reached out for peace, so we and the people forgave them. But when they showed their teeth and showed what they really are, it became clear that their will to declare unity had been merely an attempt to emerge from the predicament they experienced following the collapse of the Marxist and Communist parties in the Soviet Union and the East Bloc. It later transpired that their goal had been to emerge from the bottleneck and from intensive care. When they regained confidence in themselves later on, they hatched a serious conspiracy, thus renewing the people's grief and reviving the old image that the people had forgotten. Their apostasy against unity and Islam became clear, for unity is fundamental and is part of Islam.

[Kulayb] Many statements have been made, including some by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, indicating that the responsibility lies with 16 leading figures in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], including 'Ali Salim al-Bid. Are they alone to blame or is the entire party responsible?

[Al-Ahmar] These are the leaders of the rebellion, secession, and apostasy, along with those who went along with them, supported them, or abided by their declarations. As for those who distanced themselves from them, their apostasy, and treacherous declaration, they are acceptable.

[Kulayb] More frankly, will the Reform Grouping share power with the YSP in any future political makeup?

[Al-Ahmar] As I have just said, those who voiced their support for unity, the coalition, legitimacy, and democracy and distanced themselves from the rebels and apostates will be acceptable, and the coalition between us and them will remain valid.

[Kulayb] You mean that if the YSP accepts unity once again, it will stay in the presidential coalition?

[Al-Ahmar] For those who have shown their sins, I say once bitten, twice shy.

[Kulayb] Do you disagree with the party because of its secessionist stance and entry into the war or because of its ideology?

[Al-Ahmar] At the time of unity when the YSP showed its enthusiasm for, acknowledgment of, and adherence to unity, we said what the greatest prophet, may God's peace and blessing be upon him, had said: "Islam annuls what preceded it." Accordingly, unity annulled what had preceded it. But those who back down on their declaration become apostates.

[Kulayb] So coexistence with the YSP is impossible because it is apostate?

[Al-Ahmar] Your interpretation differs from what I said. I said that Islam annuls what preceded it. When the YSP accepted unity, reached out for its brothers throughout Yemen, renounced violence and the criminal acts it was accustomed to, and acknowledged unity, we said that unity, like Islam, annuls what came before it.

[Kulayb] You were against unity, so what made you change your mind?

[Al-Ahmar] I believed that unity with the people who now appear as they really are was fragile and would not last. But as for unity itself, I believe in it fully.

[Kulayb] Observers say that at least the YSP represented south Yemen and therefore must be included, regardless of whether it is atheist.

[Al-Ahmar] I do not agree with this. The YSP, the GPC, and the Reform Grouping represent no particular governorate. All the House of Representatives members represent the entire people.

[Kulayb] The war appeared, particularly to Western media, as a northern attack on the south. What is your view?

[Al-Ahmar] I do not agree with this either. The war was not between the north and south and this allegation is reiterated by those who have set themselves up in charge of Yemen. The war was between the state and legitimacy and the rebels, who were from no particular governorate.

[Kulayb] The events that took place, most notably in Aden, involving looting and so on, had nothing to do with unity, did they?

[Al-Ahmar] These were the practices of militias that controlled the remnants of the YSP members in Aden, Lahij, and Abyan, where feuds still prevail among the local people, who still remember the events of 1986 [when then President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad was deposed]. What happened between the YSP and the communists was much more than what is happening now. Some 13,000 were killed in the center of Aden and there was large-scale looting. The actions now may be similar but they are just a fraction of what happened then.

[Kulayb] You are the most prominent tribal chief in Yemen. What was the tribes' role in the fighting?

[Al-Ahmar] The Armed Forces are made up of the sons of these tribes. There are soldiers and officers from every village in Yemen and it was through them that all Yemen was involved in the operation to purge all the governorates of the apostates. As to whether the tribes took part as tribes, the answer is no.

[Kulayb] There is a feeling that the tribes have the upper hand over the state. How will these tribes' activities be defined?

[Al-Ahmar] Yemen's tribes are the people. We are not like other countries, like Algeria, which is spoken of as the country of tribes. We are all tribes, including the cities. By this we mean the people.

[Kulayb] The tribes were behind some actions that infringed upon the state, such as the closure of roads and the kidnapping of foreigners. Is it not time to let the concept of the state have the upper hand over the tribe?

[Al-Ahmar] These practices occur in abnormal times. What happened in Yemen does not compare with what happened in your country, Lebanon, where you had kidnappings, killings, attacks on tourists, foreigners, and ambassadors, and the assassination of leaders. What happened here does not represent a fraction of what happened in your country. Such events that occur as a direct result of the war that was imposed on us have nothing to do with the main slogans of unity and the state.

[Kulayb] A legislative problem currently exists concerning the method for filling the parliament seats left vacant by the socialists. How can this be solved?

[Al-Ahmar] Partial elections will be held to fill the vacuum.

[Kulayb] Will the partial elections be held soon?

[Al-Ahmar] Everything will take place in due course. The current number of deputies is enough. Those who rebelled are few and their absence will not affect parliament's efforts.

[Kulayb] There is talk of forming a government. Do you have any information on this?

[Al-Ahmar] Everything is proceeding well. There is a government and there are ministers. There are always deputies to replace the ministers. Governments in many countries, like Italy for example, spend long years managing affairs even after they have resigned. There was no resignation here. We have a government. Those who were dismissed are the prime minister and some members involved in the secession. The acting prime minister is currently performing all functions. Therefore, there is no problem whether or not a new government is formed.

[Kulayb] I appreciate your diplomatic answers. But does the presidential council intend to change the government and to appoint a vice president after the departure of 'Ali Salim al-Bid?

[Al-Ahmar] There is nothing in the Constitution specifying a vice chairman of the presidential council. There is a chairman and there are council members. Therefore, there is no vacancy. The three council member [as published] and the chairman constitute a quorum. Everything they issue is legal.

[Kulayb] There is much talk about the difference in views between your party and the GPC. How true is this?

[Al-Ahmar] We must point out that the reform party did not exist before unity. We were only a part of the GPC that existed before unity. Therefore, our relations are those of twins. We are one party and one organization.

[Kulayb] Now that the war has ended, would you be content with the same share of authority you enjoyed before the war?

[Al-Ahmar] We are not interested in booty. But the Reform Grouping would like to see all matters proceeding well in Yemen regardless of the mechanism.

[Kulayb] Therefore, you do not mind if the GPC remains on top and you remain, as before, on an equal footing with the YSP?

[Al-Ahmar] Do not misinterpet my words. I said that the Reform Grouping is not interested in any booty and it will not exploit its position within the state structure. The grouping wants to rectify things materially and economically as well as in security and military matters. We want the country to become even better.

[Kulayb] What about fundamentalism in Yemen, particularly since we have not seen its repercussions on the ground but only in some statements? It appears that the intellectuals in Yemen believe you will become a good example for Islam in the region.

[Al-Ahmar] I think you have answered on behalf of Islam in Yemen. We have true Islam, which is not linked with terrorism and extremism. It is the Islam of tolerance brought about by the Prophet Muhammad. We adhere to Islamic shari'ah and its rulings, which do not clash with any law. The shari'ah has existed in our country for over 1,400 years.

[Kulayb] The Yemeni Constitution stipulated that the shari'ah is not the only basis for rule and legislation. Are you hopeful that Yemen will become an Islamic state embracing shari'ah as the only authority for rule?

[Al-Ahmar] We have been an Islamic state since the dawn of Islam, a state based on justice, equality, and tolerance. This is what we abide by. Ever since it was enacted, the Constitution has contained an article that says the Islamic shari'ah is the source of all laws. We in the Reform Grouping insist on this and we want it to be included in the new constitution. This is the demand of all Yemenis.

[Kulayb] What is the scale of the foreign interference that pushed the YSP to declare secession and to wage war?

[Al-Ahmar] Regarding your talk of interference and support for rebellion by the brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council, journalists know better than us because they follow the news closely.

[Kulayb] Would you agree if I tell you there was no interference?

[Al-Ahmar] You have more accurate information than I have. We want very much to rectify things between Yemen and its neighbors and to build our relations with them on sound, clear-cut, and strong bases. We want the relations to be based on mutual respect and on respect for our sovereignty and common interests.

[Kulayb] Were the relations with the Gulf states sound?

[Al-Ahmar] Yemen's relations with its neighbors are distinguished, particularly with Saudi Arabia. But if faults appeared it was because of the Gulf war. These faults would have disappeared had it not been for the propaganda and statements that disrupted relations. God willing, the clouds will disperse and things will return to normal with them.

[Kulayb] Was the YSP decision an internal one only?

[Al-Ahmar] We consider what happened to be a crime, high treason by the YSP leaders, who must be punished. But we do not know whether the YSP decision was internal or motivated by an external influence. God Almighty says there are two roads and that the man should choose one; he should not accept a road being imposed upon him.

[Kulayb] You had good relations with the Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia. Do you intend to use these relations to improve conditions with the neighbors?

[Al-Ahmar] Yes. We will make every effort in this regard. I have good personal relations. I am proud of these relations, as I have often said. These relations will remain strong and sincere. I will continue to serve both countries and I will use this friendship to serve the two countries and in the interests of Yemen.

Reform Grouping Official on Unity, Islamic Law

NC1907071094 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 16 Jul 94 p 13

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, "theoretician" of the Yemeni Reform Grouping and member of the Yemeni Presidential Council, by Sami Kulayb in Sanaa; date not given]

[Text] [Kulayb] Is the war over?

[Al-Zindani] God willing it is over. After unity was achieved, there was no reason for inter-Yemeni differences. The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] rebelled against legitimacy and wished to substitute bullets for ballots. That is why this experience (war) occurred; we hope it will never happen again.

[Kulayb] Could the war have been avoided? Some people have said that political efforts were not given a chance.

[Al-Zindani] Had there been no external instigation and had the YSP accepted the arbitration of legitimate institutions, there would have been no war. Differences of opinion could have been resolved within the Parliament or the Presidential Council. It is our belief that the YSP was prodded from abroad, which made it rebel against the legitimate institutions and plunge the country into war.

[Kulayb] Why would the YSP seek external assistance that it knew might deprive it of three-quarters of the country?

[Al-Zindani] The YSP has consistently adopted a steel-and-fire approach in its relations with the people. Due to its long-running feud with the people, when elections were held the YSP lost some of its government posts. It feared that it would lose many of its remaining posts in the next elections. Its officials used to say openly that they, as a party, had to stay in power because of the feuds they had with the people. Any party wishing to stay in power against the public's will has to resort to external backing to survive. It has to rule with steel and fire.

[Kulayb] Will you allow the YSP to return to power following its military defeat?

[Al-Zindani] Most of the leaders who represent the YSP and speak for it are wanted by the law. They have to be tried and must explain their deeds. As for the rest of the YSP, it should mend its ways with regard to its leaders and these leaders' principles—namely, secessionist inclinations, insurrectionist tendencies, and disregard for democratic procedure. The [YSP] Central Committee bluntly stated that it does not recognize numerical majority. What is a majority, then? YSP leaders have said they do not accept the oppression of the majority. Why have democracy and elections and speak about the freedom of the people if we are to deny the majority its rights? The YSP has to state its position toward its leadership and their policies. It has to clarify its relations with this leadership. The YSP should also define its position on Islam, a faith that the YSP accepted and later forsook.

[Kulayb] Let us assume that the YSP were to renew its belief in unity and dismiss its leaders. Would you accept its participation in power?

[Al-Zindani] The law on Yemeni political parties, signed by the YSP, states that Islam is a faith and a shari'ah. We have no objection to any party accepting this statement. This is the law of the country. The participation of any party is governed by the interests of the country. The government should be homogeneous, strong, and capable. Its members should be able to perform their responsibilities and gain the confidence of the Parliament.

[Kulayb] You are accused of attempting to usurp power. Would you explain the Islamists' point of view in this regard?

[Al-Zindani] What do you mean by Islamists? We are a Muslim people who believe in the Koran and the teachings of the Prophet. We and other parties have made a commitment to Islam as a faith and a shari'ah. Differences need not emerge, except on programs. We believe that anyone who accepts Islam as a faith and a shari'ah is a true and unblemished Muslim. All parties have made a commitment to this effect. Our entire nation is Muslim. Therefore, you may want to reconsider your classifications. As for the programs, views, and theories advanced by our parties, in due course the public will come to see their merit.

[Kulayb] I have noticed that during a recent ulema conference, calls were made to implement Islamic shari'ah as the only source of legislation, to introduce male-female segregation in schools, to ban usury, and so on. Does this mean that you hope to develop Islam's official status?

[Al-Zindani] We have been influenced by two cultures, first, the culture of the ages of decline, which distorted the way Islam was viewed, and the culture of the age of colonialism, which sowed doubts about Islam. The two cultures are responsible for the current confusion in the

Arab-Islamic mentality. A return to the pure origins of this religion is our salvation and will lead us to the great principles and values by which nations live. Concerning constitutional amendments, this is a battle that our people and ulema waged until the YSP was convinced of their necessity and the constitutional amendments were adopted. The YSP became convinced, like all Muslims, that a Muslim's faith remains incomplete until he accepts God's law. A Muslim cannot stand up and say: God is wrong about this or that law and I know more than God about this affair. This is an accusation against God and his religion. A person who has faith cannot say something like this, because it contradicts the very core of our faith.

[Kulayb] What are your views on usury and coeducational schools?

[Al-Zindani] Usurer banks produced international economic crises and difficulties in the capitalist world, provoking socialist and communist upheaval that sought a solution to these difficulties. The money is owned by the banks' proprietors, who profit from every economic transaction in the country, never shouldering any part of the loss if there is one. We want a new relationship in which the capital's owner shares in the profit and the loss.

Concerning segregation in schools, the number of girls receiving an education in our country has risen sharply and is sufficient to fill a whole university. You know what young people are like in their adolescence. We wish to spare our families the traps into which young people fall, build close-knit families, and protect our offspring. A fine offspring is one of the shari'ah's aims. We do not want to see that phenomenon seen abroad, namely, children born to a mother who does not know who the father is.

[Kulayb] What is the difference between the government-Islamists relationship here in Yemen and in Algeria or Egypt for instance?

[Al-Zindani] Here in Yemen, the government and the people have elected to hold a dialogue and accept the principle of the peaceful transfer of power. We see no reason for violence. What happened in Algeria, and the world opposed it, was that the government refused to accept the election results. A government that does not allow its people to express their views and elect their representatives cannot last long.

[Kulayb] Do you believe in the inherent unity of the Arab world's Islamic movements? Or does each movement have its own special characteristics?

[Al-Zindani] Generally Islam is the same everywhere but minor details differ from one country to another. For example the general rules for making clothes are the same in cold and hot countries but at the same time people consider the local climate when they choose the color and type of cloth. So in Islam we have general principles and shari'ah rules but you might find some regional differences.

[Kulayb] Is the Yemeni Reform Grouping 100 percent satisfied with the rule of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih?

[Al-Zindani] No one is infallible but Muhammad, may God's prayer and peace be with him. But you can have a person most of whose acts are wrong, another most of whose acts are right, and a third who is in between. Our attitude to each person depends upon our attitude to his acts and whether they are right or wrong. Islam leaves the door open for the mutinous to repent. But we must maintain the minimum required standards—and the minimum does exist. It means believing that God knows better and that his shari'ah must be obeyed because implementing shari'ah is part of worshipping God.

[Kulayb] If the minimum exists, what is the maximum to which you aspire?

[Al-Zindani] To emulate the Prophet.

[Kulayb] What is your relationship with world Islamic organizations, particularly with Sudan?

[Al-Zindani] I did not attend the Sudanese Popular Conference in Khartoum. Dr. Hasan al-Turabi is a well-known thinker in modern Islamic movements. However, each country has its own characteristics. The situation in Yemen is different from the situation in Sudan.

[Kulayb] Does the Reform Grouping aspire to power in Yemen?

[Al-Zindani] We want to apply God's shari'ah. It does not matter if this is done by the Reform Grouping or others.

[Kulayb] What is required to strengthen the domestic front against foreign intervention? Do you have evidence of foreign intervention in the recent war?

[Al-Zindani] If you visit al-Rayyan and al-Ghaydah airports and some military positions, where you will see modern weapons that the Yemeni Army is not familiar with and that are not in its arsenal, you will be able to gauge the scope of foreign intervention. If you are aware of the YSP's expenditures, you will realize the magnitude of this intervention. We believe the YSP played a role in harming our relations with our neighbors. We hope to improve these relations. We ask our neighbors to listen to us as they used to listen to the YSP.

[Kulayb] Do you really have any hope these relations will improve?

[Al-Zindani] Yes, they have begun to improve.

[Kulayb] Will the interests of these neighboring countries permit the establishment of a united Yemen with a strong, unified military force and considerable oil wealth?

[Al-Zindani] If we analyze it, we will find we are one nation. The strength of part of the nation is the strength of the whole nation. We and our brothers on the Arabian Peninsula, all Arab countries, and the whole Islamic world are one nation.

[Kulayb] Did the United States play any role in the Yemeni war?

[Al-Zindani] Politics always goes on behind closed doors. We lack proof. However, at sensitive times the United States adopted stands which did not please us.

[Kulayb] Why don't you issue a fatwa against khat?

[Al-Zindani] This is the usual time of day for chewing khat. You can see I do not chew or eat khat. I hope the Yemeni people will give up this habit. However, the issuance of a fatwa prohibiting it must be discussed by Yemeni religious scholars, because it is not intoxicating and does not place a human being in a state of intoxication in which he is insensible.

[Kulayb] It is said that the use of a certain amount makes one lose his mental power.

[Al-Zindani] You must submit research on this to the scholars, because issuing judgments on something requires legal proof. Yemeni scholars believe it is not intoxicating. However, everyone hopes the people will give up this habit.

Says Islamic Law Must Prevail

NC1807162694 Paris AFP in English 1542 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, July 18 (AFP)—Islamic law must prevail in Yemen and socialists would be able to take part in the government provided they agreed to stick to such principles, a leading politician said Monday [18 July].

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, a member of Yemen's Presidential Council and the supreme committee of the Islamic Islah party told journalists on Monday that the "application of Islamic law is very important to us."

He maintained the Yemen Socialist Party led by southerner and former vice-president 'Ali Salim al-Bid had agreed to comply with Islamic law to join the coalition government with the President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's General People's Congress.

Months of tension in the ruling coalition finally erupted into civil war on May 5 between northern forces loyal to Salih and those of his southern rival al-Bid.

The war ended when northern troops captured the southern stronghold of Aden, which used to be the capital of the former Marxist South Yemen before it merged in May 1990 with the tribal, conservative North.

A referendum is expected to be held soon to decided on the new makeup of the government and replace key posts previously held by separatist southern leaders, under a project currently being discussed in Sanaa.

Islah is widely expected to gain ground following the south's defeat in the two-month war.

Al-Zindani said a future Islamist Yemen would keep the country's constitution and a multi-party system.

He dismissed as unfair fears over the increasing influence of Islamists in Yemen's government, saying they resulted from Western stereotypes.

"There's no ideological difference between the coalition government and the Islah party. We both believe in applying Islamic law," he said.

Al-Zindani said Islamic law and economic principles were as applicable now as they were when they were written.

"We are in a time of development and we have to be flexible. We need to take a new look at the basic principles of Islam and clarify them in terms of the modern context," he said.

He said an Islamic economic system would resemble a free market economy but would retain a state welfare system to care for the poor.

He also denied the existence of Islamic training camps in Yemen, answering allegations by southern leaders that militants especially from the Islamic Jihad movement were based in the country.

Al-Asnaj on U.S. Stance, Settlement Prospects

MM1807151994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jul 94 p 5

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq: "South Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: 'Absence of Balanced Solution Would Open the Way to War; It Saddens Us to See Southern Towns Regarded As War Spoils'"]

[Text] Washington—Before leaving Washington, which he visited along with Prime Miniter Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas for talks with U.S. officials on the situation in Yemen after the war and the chances of resolving the ongoing crisis, Democratic Yemen's Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj talked to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the latest developments, political efforts, the U.S. position on the crisis, proposed solutions, the strategy or plan of action the southern leaders would follow in the next phase, and other issues.

On the U.S. position on the crisis from the beginning, al-Asnaj, with some "bitterness," said that "the United States, like a number of European states, especially the United Kingdom, keeps calling for a political settlement through dialogue, and shows interest in the humanitarian aspect in south Yemeni areas, particularly Aden. It believes that unity—though Washington believes it should be maintained—cannot be achieved by force but rather by peaceful dialogue." He added: "That, I imagine, is the interpretation closest to the U.S. position, and that is what the states of the region have been calling for, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], the Sultanate of Oman, Kuwait, Egypt, and Syria."

Al-Asnaj went on: "The United States has interests governed by global strategic considerations. The region as a whole occupies a part of its thinking and interest but what interests us is finding a solution that would ensure Yemen's stability. That means remedying the effects of the war. Once the Yemeni parties concerned lay down the foundations of a settlement that is fair and satisfactory for everyone, without victor and vanquished, that would pave the way for remedying the effects of the war on all the people. A united Yemen would then see the beginning of political and social stability and security, would have better development chances, and its current isolation in the region would end."

In his concept of the desired solution, al-Asnaj focused on one important point. He said that "in the absence of a balanced political solution between the north and the south, the door would remain wide open to civil wars that would intensify Yemen's misery." In that context, he believes that "some of the foundations on which the dialogue, settlement, and solution could be based were actually among the points included in the Sanaa government's letter to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali, which Ghali himself confirmed on the basis of his telephone conversation with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih."

The letter emphasized the following:

1. A general amnesty not excluding anyone.
2. Commitment to the Pledge and Accord Document signed in Amman.
3. Respect for human rights.
4. War losses compensation for members of the public who lost their property or suffered other losses as a result of the war.

Al-Asnaj added that "that letter was registered as a UN document. There is no doubt that the United Nations, the U.S. Administration, and the Arab League see that document as a possible framework for a political settlement of the crisis. We believe that the U.S. Administration probably considers these undertakings, which must have been conveyed to it, as a factor that opens the way to a political settlement."

On the extent of U.S. objection to recognition of Democratic Yemen, he said: "There had been no U.S. commitment to recognition, and it was not a question of U.S. opposition to recognition. It did not seem to me in any way that the United States was close to recognition."

On 'Ali Salim al-Bid's retirement from politics and what effect that would have, he said: "He has now made a pledge in the Sultanate of Oman that he would not talk [politics]. I do not understand the real motives behind the disappearance of 'Ali Salim al-Bid from public life but that decision to leave and seek refuge in the Sultanate of Oman has doubled the people's suffering in the south, particularly the practices that have gone on and are still going on in Aden, al-Dali', and Hadramaut, contrary to our righteous religion and our Yemeni and Arab traditions. Aden still has a drinking-water crisis, and looting and theft are still going on in stores, public places, and homes abandoned by their owners. The settling of scores between northern and southern military people is taking place without any regard for the laws of war or protection and non-torture of prisoners."

He added that "it is sad to have to mention the fatwa [edict] issued by some of the brothers in the politicized Islamic Movement, which is in alliance with the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], that Aden, Hadramaut, and other Yemeni towns are war spoils. We have appealed to humanitarian organizations to send representatives to intervene and stop such aggression."

In conclusion, he said that "work to settle the crisis will continue. The coming days will witness the announcement of a framework or a formula believed by the southern leaders to constitute a basis for political dialogue aimed at promoting a just settlement acceptable to all, otherwise the crisis would get worse."

Kidnapping of 'Former' Ambassador Denounced

JN1907081894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, 19 Jul (INA)—The Yemeni Government has denounced the kidnapping of Qasim 'Askar Jubran, former Yemeni ambassador to Algeria, and Dr. Muhammad Qasim al-Thawr, member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party, in Algeria recently.

A responsible source at the Yemeni Foreign Ministry said in statements in Sanaa last night that the Yemeni Foreign Ministry is holding contacts with the Algerian Government to search for the former Yemeni ambassador and Yemeni national Muhammad Qasim al-Thawr.

The source expressed confidence that the Algerian authorities's efforts to search for the two kidnapped Yemenis will result in their release and the taking to task of those responsible for the incident.

UN's Renewal of Sanctions Reported

JN1907065094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] New York—Deliberations at the UN Security Council today on the blockade clamped on Iraq have further isolated the U.S. Administration.

Russian Ambassador Yuriy Vorontsov has said that the UN Security Council resolutions are binding not only for countries, but also for the UN Security Council itself. In a comment made during the UN Security Council's deliberations today, Monday, and also in statements to journalists, Vorontsov said that any attempt to reject this principle for the sake of achieving political objectives, despite the opinion of the majority of the UN Security Council member states, will affect the power of the UN Security Council. He said that this will not help promote the implementation of a partnership that can develop solely on the basis of a balance of interests.

The Russian ambassador added that his country notes with complete satisfaction cooperation between Iraq and the UN Special Commission. He said that any remaining problems can be solved within the framework of further cooperation.

Vorontsov stressed that the UN Security Council should react to Iraq's positive stands in an appropriate manner.

Vorontsov pointed out the need for the Council to set a limited control period, at the end of which it will announce its satisfaction with Iraq's cooperation and be prepared to lift the oil embargo. He added that it is a question of Russia's major economic and financial interests.

Answering journalists' questions, Vorontsov clearly said: This time, the United States was the only UN Security Council member to obstruct the Council's action.

Vorontsov then read to the journalists the statement of the Russian Federation delegation, which reads:

Tangible progress has been achieved with regard the implementation of Resolution 687. This progress was confirmed by UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus to the UN Security Council members in his report on the results of his recent visit on 4-5 July 1994.

He said: We are particularly satisfied with regard to the progress achieved in the system of long-term monitoring. It is possible to start the implementation of this system in September. We think that the positive aspect of Iraq's meeting the disarmament requirements of the Security Council has greater weight than the doubts which remain. The UN Security Council should react to the positive changes in an appropriate manner. The Council should not resort to stands that are far from logic and sound assessments.

Vorontsov accused the United States of being the only Council member which adopted an oppositionist stand. He said that the other members are ready to admit the progress achieved. Although she has admitted that the rest of the UN Security Council members oppose her country's stands, the U.S. envoy insisted on continuing pressure on Iraq.

The Chinese envoy stressed the need to recognize the progress achieved between Iraq and the UN Special Commission, and also the need to adopt a realistic and objective stand.

During the UN Security Council's meeting last week to discuss Ekeus' report, the British UN envoy admitted that progress was achieved, and that his country was happy with Iraq's cooperation. However, he called for launching the long-term monitoring system and for verifying its efficiency.

During that meeting, the French ambassador said that the French authorities were satisfied that Iraq had made a great and positive step, and that there was great progress.

The Spanish ambassador expressed his country's satisfaction with the progress achieved in the monitoring plans and the good implementation of Resolution 687, as well as with the existing cooperation between Iraq and the United Nations.

The Spanish ambassador criticized UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus for insisting to speak, in his report, about the past. He wondered whether the six months period he proposes for testing the monitoring system was necessary.

The Brazilian ambassador said that the monitoring is efficient and asked Ekeus to confirm that atmospheres of trust do exist between Iraq and the UN Special Commission, especially since Iraq, sometimes, expresses its indignation over the discussion of unimportant issues.

The Nigerian ambassador asked the Special Commission to set a timetable and to present clear information. He said he wanted to understand what obligations Iraq has not fulfilled.

Following the deliberation, the Pakistani ambassador, who is the president of the UN Security Council this month, announced that the blockade had been renewed automatically due to the lack of full agreement among the UN Security Council members, and that a new review of the blockade will take place in September.

An IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondence in New York said that despite the heavy rains, many Arabs and Iraqis came from various U.S. cities to the United Nations to call for the lifting of the blockade imposed on Iraq. They raised slogans denouncing the blockade and the U.S. Administration.

Saddam Tells Cabinet: Iraq to 'Emerge Victorious'

JN1607193894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has said that thanks to the determination of all Iraqis—peasants, workers, professionals, military, and nationalist businessmen—Iraq, God willing, will emerge victorious and will leave behind this final stage of the Mother of Battles.

Addressing members of the Council of Ministers, his excellency said: You and your agencies are required to exercise constant vigilance and to try new and bold approaches in all sectors of the economy. This has foiled and is foiling all the ramifications with which the evil aggressors are trying to preoccupy us, after the failure of their military aggression and their desperate attempts in the two renewed aggressive assaults of January and June 1993.

These remarks by the leader president, may God watch over him, were made during his excellency's chairmanship of the 10th session of the Council of Ministers.

The council continued discussions [words indistinct] this phase. It made the required and [word indistinct] decisions [words indistinct].

Arab Parliaments Invited for Conciliatory Talks

JN1807202494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, has stated the following: "God the Almighty said in his book: In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate: And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves. [Koranic verses]

The National Assembly greeted with immense pride the genuinely pan-Arab stand articulated by His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn in his historic speech marking the 26th anniversary of the 17-30 July Revolution, in which his excellency made it clear that the doors of Iraq are still open to relating positively to the Arab regimes and governments that had taken anti-Iraq positions and hurt it since 1990, on condition that they quit these positions and policies as well as their insistence on deepening wounds and became resolved to put things right.

The National Assembly supports and blesses His Excellency the leader president's reiteration that Iraq is extending peace and security for those who need them, including rulers who have hurt Iraq.

This pan-Arab and wise policy that was spelled out clearly in the speech of his excellency the leader president on 17 July, 1994 renews the national and pan-Arab principles in which the proud Iraqi people believe and for which they work. It is a pan-Arab policy the roots of which stretch far back in Iraq's history and its victorious and potential resources. It reiterates its honorable stands and the boundless dynamism of the Iraqi people and provides evidence of the Iraqi people's concern for their Arab nation and its supreme interests.

We sincerely hope that our brothers in the Arab states will realize that His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn's speech opens the road wide for dressing wounds and emphasizes an adherence to supreme Arab interests. It is a true expression of the ambitions and yearnings of Arabs throughout the Arab states, who call for staying away from divisions and working seriously for a resolution of the problems that are keeping the Arab countries apart. The Arabs demand that the spirit of solidarity and love and a reliance on Arab resources prevail.

Based on the ideas and principles contained in His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn's speech and as an honest endeavor to turn this pan-Arab initiative into practical steps advancing, God willing, the security and the vital interests of the Arab states combined, the Iraqi National Assembly invites the parliaments, including that of Kuwait, and executive bodies or consultative bodies that stand for parliaments in brotherly Arab states, which his excellency the leader president's speech had in mind, especially Iraq's neighbors, to hold bilateral meetings without prior conditions with a view to discussing the outstanding problems with Iraq. This is to find suitable and fair solutions to these problems so as to clear the air and reinforce bilateral ties between Iraq and the brotherly Arab states concerned, especially its neighbors.

A resolve on the part of the brothers to whom this genuine invitation is addressed coupled with a response to us and success from God Almighty, will help all of us contribute in an Arab and Islamic spirit to repairing what was damaged and building a cohesive structure of Arab solidarity capable of safeguarding the security and interests of all the Arab states under the dire and complex circumstances our region and the world are experiencing.

[Signed] Iraqi National Assembly Speaker, Sa'di Mahdi Salih

9 Safar, 1415 hegira; corresponsing to 18 July, 1994

Saddam Receives Well-Wishers on National Day

JN1707155494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1414 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received well-wishers on the 26th anniversary of the great 17-30 July revolution.

Present to extend congratulations to his excellency on this occasion were Taha Yasin Ramadan, 'Abd-al-Majid al-Rafi'i, Badr-al-Din Muddaththir, and Ilyas Farah—members of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and vice president; fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, RCC member and defense minister; Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; RCC members; members of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Council; ministers; officials with the rank of minister; and fighter members of the General Command of the Armed Forces.

They extended congratulations on this dear occasion, beseeching God to preserve the leader and give him a long life so that Iraq remains strong and lofty and a thorn in the eyes of the rancorous ones and enemies, so that Iraq remains a beacon lighting the path before all the good and sincere children of this militant nation, and so the victorious march remains led by his excellency toward the shore of safety, wellbeing, and reconstruction in the homeland of civilizations and eternal glory.

His excellency thanked those who came to congratulate him, wishing everybody a free, dignified life, and a prosperous and strong Iraq proud of its glorious children.

On this occasion, best wishes for our great Iraq, the revolution, the people, and the leader.

Yeltsin Cable Suggests Cooperation With World

JN1707152794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from Russian President Boris Yeltsin on the 26th anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution.

The cable states: Please accept our congratulations on Iraq's national day, the Revolution Day. We wish the Iraqi people peace and security. We also hope they will overcome the current and uneasy phase in Iraq's history as soon as possible by strengthening cooperation with the world community.

BABIL Criticizes Islamic Law Application

JN1807194094 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 12 Jul 94 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Religion Is for God, and the Homeland Is for All"]

[Text] In Arab history, particularly Islamic Arab history, there have been three facts of life: spiritual leadership, temporal leadership, and commerce. Each of these facts is considered as something that shares nothing with the other two facts. The separation of these facts was the reason why the Islamic state rose up to the sublime position it reached. Mixing the three facts, however, led to the beginning of the end of the Islamic state. At the same time, there was a division of the one religion of God, which was revealed to prophet Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah.

In a previous article, we indicated that prophet Muhammad led the Muslim armies that conquered Mecca in the 8th year of Hegira. The prophet performed the last pilgrimage, climbed Mount 'Arafah, and delivered his last speech in the 10th year of Hegira. The prophet passed away on Monday, 12 Rabi' al-Awwal, a few days after his last speech. Hence, God almighty wanted to deter the prophet from dealing with the state, away from the revealed Koranic verses and from religion, which are both indisputable and which cannot be divided or subjected to personal interpretations. However, the life of a state can be subject to personal interpretations. Thus, God wanted his prophet to refrain from such a life, in order to avoid making mistakes and engaging in controversial matters, not in terms of what he utters but perhaps in terms of both the prophet's own person and the verses revealed to him.

Therefore, the temporal leadership was specifically granted to two companions of the prophet, namely, Abu-Bakr al-Siddiq and 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab. Here, there was a clear separation between the three facts of life. In other words, they chose the temporal leadership, so the spiritual leadership was left to prophet Muhammad through both the Koranic verses and his sayings, which were cited by the companions who did not pass away in the wars of conquer and liberation. In other words, the prophet's sayings were uttered by these companions because they heard them.

The Islamic state began to deteriorate when a person, who was granted the temporal leadership, mixed it with commerce. 'Uthman Bin-'Affan [the third Muslim caliph] was a prominent merchant. Despite the fact that his business was intended for the welfare of Muslims, he began to consider profit and loss calculations, and there is the known story that he favored his relatives who insisted on some matters, which led to details that we do not want to discuss.

Imam 'Ali Bin Abi-Talib then assumed the caliphate. Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, spoke about 'Ali in the following words: I am the city of knowledge and 'Ali is its gate. The prophet did not say: I am the ruler of this state and 'Ali is my successor. The prophet gave 'Ali a noble description as a man of learning and knowledge. I mean here by knowledge that which is useful to mankind and which stems from God's teachings. Therefore, 'Ali assumed the caliphate unwillingly, and this is a historical fact. However, Imam 'Ali saw that the situation of the state required, in light of what 'Uthman's caliphate had produced, that he assume that post in view of his renowned influence.

Then, the Umayyads assumed the caliphate. The battle of Siffin then took place between the army of Imam 'Ali and the army of Mu'awiyah Bin Abi-Sufyan. The Umayyads saw that the progress of the battle was in favor of Imam 'Ali so they held the Koran high on the tip of their swords and asked for arbitration. Imam 'Ali agreed to that. Here, we recall a statement by the prophet to 'Ammar Bin- Yasir, who was sitting in his lap. The prophet told him: The despotic clique will kill you. In Siffin, 'Ammar Bin-Yasir was 70 years old. He was fighting with the ranks of Imam 'Ali. He was indeed killed in this battle. The larger group of believers was with the ranks of 'Ali Bin Abi-Talib.

Mu'awiyah Bin Abi-Sufyan, one of the shrewdest politicians in the history of the Arab nation, particularly in the Islamic era, realized that people preferred their ruler to be an imam in the first place. This makes it easier for the ruler to do whatever he wants. So he sought to merge the imamate and caliphate. Then, we have the familiar story when Imam al-Husayn Bin 'Ali Bin Abi-Talib opposed this plan. The culmination of this opposition was the Karbala' battle, which caused Yazid Bin-Mu'awiyah and his supporters in that period to be cursed and al-Husayn to be praised and glorified until this day.

Then, the Abbasids started fighting the Umayyads under the pretext of restoring the imamate and caliphate to the people who descend from Ali's lineage, demanding revenge for the Karbala' battle. Finally, the Abbasids seized the caliphate and left the imamate for the prophet's household at the beginning of the rule of Abu-al-'Abbas al-Saffah. When al-Mansur assumed the caliphate, he once again sought to restore the imamate. This also was the beginning of the end of the Abbasid state and the beginning of a split within the ranks of the Muslims, since the party to which the imamate is handed down is well known.

This quick review is meant to give the reader a background to what will be discussed. We will move at once from our Arab Islamic history to the modern history of the Arab nation. We will not talk about persons from Islamic currents who do not deserve to mentioned. We will talk only about persons and symbols who have had an impact on the modern Arab history. We mention, for example, 'Abd-al-Nasir. Here, intellectuals are divided. Some of them say Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir began his political career with the Muslim Brotherhood and then joined the free officers and became independent of the Brotherhood. Others say 'Abd-al-Nasir began with the free officers and continued with them until the victory of the 23 July, 1952 revolution.

A reading of the history of the late 'Abd-al-Nasir, God rest his soul, will show that at the beginning, he tried to conclude a truce with the Islamic current in the fifties. The situation reached the point of a coup against the Islamic current when the Muslim Brotherhood planned to assassinate him, and with the consequent execution of Imam Hasan al-Banna, the grand master of the Muslim Brotherhood. This marked the beginning of separation between the pan-Arab current and the Islamic current.

This also happened with Muhammad Husni Mubarak who tried to befriend the Muslim Brotherhood when the Islamic current became influential in an attempt to neutralize them. Later, he focused his efforts on destroying the other active Islamic currents. However, estrangement has recently occurred between him and the Islamic current following the incidents at the lawyers union and against merchants whom he tried to move to another market.

In previous articles we said that the Americans are among the those whom we consider to be stupid in politics. Why? The politician must first read the future and then theorize for this future. The Americans are not good at this. They first act and then expect reactions to their action. In other words, they cannot calculate action and reactions on paper in advance even if these reactions are 90 percent identical to their calculations. There is much evidence of this. These characteristics are different from those of the British.

At the outset of the Yemeni crisis there were important U.S. contacts with Yemen. Some of these contacts were undeclared. These contacts were in harmony with the Americans' political ideology of imposing their control over the oil wells in the world, especially after oil was discovered in Yemen in considerable quantities, which would help some European states and Japan to flourish if they wanted to have independent decisionmaking.

The crisis began in Yemen, and the cause of this crisis lies in the inherited characteristics of the Gulf rulers, for the bedouin's rancor is same as the camel's rancor. If the camel is hurt, it will come back to kill the person who harmed him even if this takes five years. There is a known story about the camel which was hurt by a bedouin. This camel returned after five years and sat on the bedouin's tent and killed him while he was sleeping.

As part of settling accounts with Iraq and those who supported it during the Mother of Battles, the Gulf rulers began to drive a wedge among the Yemenis, and they have succeeded in this. At the beginning, the United States stood idle, then Saudi Arabia in particular, and the other Gulf states in general, exerted pressure on the United States, and the United States pretended to see nothing. This was the beginning of the fatal mistake. This is because the Americans and the Gulf rulers, with the exception of the Qatar, began to say that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was a little Saddam and that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih represents the Islamic current. Let us discuss these two points. The first point is that they called 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih a little Saddam. This means that they are certain that no person can be up to or similar to Saddam Husayn. At the same time, they convinced the Arabs that in order to fight fragmentation you must be like Saddam Husayn. 'Ali Salih has fought fragmentation.

[Text] The second point concerns what amounts to a capital mistake. Nothing can be more alarming to the Americans and Saudis than to see the Islamic trend gain a foothold in the Arabian Peninsula.

After the Kuwait episode, the Saudis sought to inherit the Islamic mantle from the Iranians who had failed with Iraq. But the Saudis did not fare any better; Saudi clerics showed their displeasure with the Saudi ruling family in a document critical of the regime.

Now the Americans made a mistake. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih never was a symbol of the Islamic trend. He only invested in the Islamic trend led by Speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives 'Abdallah al-Ahmar to counterbalance the secular Yemeni Socialist Party leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid. However, having willy-nilly been draped with the Islamic mantle, he could not but accept it. The Islamic trend was a veritable sword or stick wielded by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih as he pursued the effort to reunite Yemen. Thus, it is inaccurate to say that the Islamic trend gained a foothold in the

Arabian Peninsula, because Islam is deeply rooted in one of the Peninsula's oldest countries; and that is Yemen, whose people are known for their shrewdness and mettle—attributes that have been made all the stronger with the annexation by Saudi Arabia of Yemeni territory under the guise of a lease, which is set to expire by the end of the century. We should also take into account differences between the Yemenis and Saudis. Add to that the Islamic trends in Sudan across the sea. Given that deep-seated rancor sweeps temperance away, the Saudis have alienated Yemen in the south and Iraq in the north and potentially Egypt, should there be a change of regime there.

From this brief outline, we aim to make a point about us—Iraq and the Iraqis—and the Islamic trend.

From the dawn of history, the cultural leadership has rotated among three leaders: Najd and Hejaz, Egypt, and Iraq. Egypt and Iraq in particular are among the oldest civilizations. Najd and Hejaz, which sprang Prophet Muhammad, God's mercy and blessings upon him, and provided the hope for the Arab nation. These were three peaks that never converged at any one time.

The Islamic trend in Iraq did not have any influence at all. This stems from a simple Iraqi statement, which people often say: "That person is a good man, he fears God." They do not say: "That person is a good man" only, even if he is a man of religion. The position of the man of religion has always been inside the Husayniyah [a shiite place of worship], the mosque, or the Muslim poorhouse and did not go beyond the four walls of these places. He talks and gives advice, but what he says is not binding to all. In certain Iraqi villages, and in the houses of well-known men, particularly in the areas to the north of Baghdad and near the northern region, a simple peasant may threaten, or even wave the stick against a Sayyid [a shiite religious title] when he comes to see them. This is because the Iraqis believe that the shortest way between you and God is that which does not go through intermediaries.

Even when we were students in secondary schools, we used to see individuals who adhere to the superficial additions to religion to be the weakest physically, and the most isolated. But we had in class people who feared God, stuck to religion, gave zakat [alms to be given by every well-to-do Muslim], and prayed. However, these did not have the extremist view which the individuals we talked about earlier had, and they outnumbered them.

Therefore, the Islamic trend did not have a foothold as was the case in Yemen, but the colonialist and imperialist powers were always trying from abroad to ignite the politicized Islamic trend at the expense of the clear religion of God. We saw that in Iran against a certain sect, and in Saudi Arabia, with the Wahhabism against other sects.

The situation remained unchanged. We saw the harm inflicted by the Islamic trend—and, by God, we are not talking about God's religion, but about the politicized trend that donned the cloak of Islam—during the chapter of treachery and treason. We saw what will happen if they take control. We also saw how, despite their large numbers in certain places, they would be running away when certain individuals arrive and how they would start screaming "Saddam's group is here." They would then throw their weapons and run away. Also after these events the Islamic trend did not gain any foothold.

Now, the United States is certain that Iraq's danger does not stem from the presence of Islamic trends within it, but from the presence of a nationalistic trend. If we belonged to the Islamic trend, then we had no reason to go to Lebanon and help a group of Christians to fight against the invading Syrian forces. We went there on the basis of our pan-Arab structure. The Islamic trends do not fight as the pan-Arabists do. If there was a battle in Mauritania involving an Arab, regardless of his religion, and a foreigner, the pan-Arabist would go to fight alongside his Arab brother, but the Muslim would not go unless the other party was Christian or communist.

Examples: They fought in Afghanistan against the atheist communists, they fought in Yemen against the atheist communists in the south, they fought in Bosnia-Herzegovina against the Christians, and they fought in Sudan against the Christians in the south. But they did not fight with the Algerians in the war which has been raging for the third consecutive year now. Only the Algerians who are associated with the Islamic trend fought. Why? Because they consider the fighting there between two Muslim parties. This will make us enter into other considerations, which we have no time for, because if there was a treacherous Muslim, you cannot curtail him, stop him, or fight against him.

Iraq has not witnessed any of the Islamic trends which have surfaced in the Arab and Islamic world. Why?

Let us look, search, think, and draw our conclusions from the facts on the ground.

The Islamic trend appeared in Egypt because Egypt tried everything. It jumped in the lap of Ottoman and French colonialism on the pretext of modernization and progress. The pan-Arab trend also did not accomplish much for Egypt. After all this, it saw no harm in trying the Islamic trend.

In Iran, the Shah's authority was so deeply rooted and could only be toppled by a supernatural power. There was no power mightier than that of the Shah in terms of decisionmaking, firmly-established institutions, and strong military machine. The recourse to God was the only option left to topple him. They exploited God's name, raised it as a banner to be able to end the nightmare.

Afghanistan is an Islamic country where the communists tried to obliterate its Islamic identity. This backfired on them.

In Algeria and North Africa, things were clear. The French tried to wipe out the Arabic language and Islam. This brought about the clear reaction we are witnessing.

In Yemen, the same thing took place. The presence of the communists also led to a reaction in the same direction.

But, in Iraq things were different. Iraq is viewed as one of the countries hosting the oldest and most important schools of Islamic jurisprudence and comes second after the Arabian Peninsula in terms of the sanctity of its soil because it houses the tombs of prophets and the friends of God. One can also say that it is the first country in this respect if we exclude Mecca and the Prophet's tomb. For this reason, Islam exists and is deeply rooted in the hearts and minds of every person.

Colonialism, imperialism, and specfically the Americans have tried to get a foothold for the Islamic trend. This is substantiated by the presence of the Islamic Party in Kurdistan which Iran fully supports. This party waged two wars in a very short period of time. The first battle was not a big battle. When they were on the verge of wiping out this party, the West opposed this. This party rebuilt itself in six months and tried its luck once again in cooperation with Mas'ud Barzani. It succeeded in obtaining a foothold, and in capturing lands in northern Iraq. The West and the Americans then did not oppose this.

Therefore, they wanted the Islamic Party to have a foothold at the expense of the pan-Arab trend. Whenever the pan-Arab trend assumed power in Iraq, it adopted unique stands on the Palestinian cause, Iraq's unity, or the Arab nation's causes, starting with 1958, some periods during 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim's rule, and later on.

Therefore, the United States fears the Pan-Arab trend and not the Islamic trend. Whatever garment the Islamic trend dons in Iraq will bring us disaster because we are not one Islamic sect or community. We belong to many Islamic sects. Since it is difficult and impossible to balance between them, adopting the viewpoint of one side only will be at the expense of the other sect, not to mention that there is also the Christian community whom God has described as the people who have sacred scriptures. These have their rites and their way of life. If we try to ignore this way of life in our legislation, then we will be overlooking some of their rites.

Let us see how the comrades in the Ba'th Party relate to Islam. First, let us see how the West sees us. The West views Ba'thists as being secular. Why? Because they embody the pinnnacle of faith in God and in Arab unity and believe the Arab nation should manage its own affairs. Most of our comrades are from Muslim families. The founder of the party was a Christian who converted to Islam before his death. As for leader Saddam Husayn, his relationship with Islam is well known.

The West describes our relationship with Almighty God as a bandwagon on which we jumped after 1990 (after Kuwait). It also says that we are now using a lot of koranic verses and words related to Almighty God. However, this trend was not purely Islamic. Rather, it was aimed at making the body a pan-Arab body and making the heart throb with Islamic faith and belief, which Almighty God granted to his messenger through Gabriel. Therefore, balancing the body and the heart is very dangerous. If the heart is planted and does not originate from the body, the latter, regardless of its size and strength, will reject that heart and death will take place. It is an equation offering just one of two options: Either jumping toward glory or coming to an end. Balance is much needed within this framework. The enemies and the fifth column are moving in a wicked way. Some of them say: Does this mean that we will put on chadors and that al-Rashid's Baghdad, with all its history and its various sects, will turn into a city similar to Saudi cities?

Can the internal security organs control the situation after the recent decision to prevent the spread of drugs? Some people take pills because alcohol prices are rather high. This fact will increase the use of drugs and pills. Do our organs have such an ability? They were unable to control prices without direct intervention by comrade leader Saddam Husayn and by the party and its organizations. They also were unable to fight smuggling, to ban hostile publications entering Iraq, and to prevent smuggling various kinds of materials, including antiquities, from the country. How can we control this situation?

Dealing with the Islamic trend ideas in a country like Iraq should be subject to a very precise equation because they may soon turn against us. Briefly, the Islamic trend began as one in Egypt and then divided into several Islamic trends. The Islamic trend also began in Afghanistan in the same way and then divided into several trends, and differences among them caused more destruction to Afghanistan than the communists who ruled the country. We have not heard that two Islamic trends merged and formed one coalition. On the contrary, division has been taking place as if it were a firm doctrine of these Islamic trends. This is not strange. Islam was revealed to the messenger as one whole and since then it has been dividing into sects. Interpretations of Islam are also still going on. Everything pronounced and created by God is consistent because God Is one. When people want to interpret anything, they should divide it because people differ in race and color. Therefore, we should not expect the Islamic trends to accept us as Ba'thists, and even if we allow them to talk, the Islamic trends will be the first to reject the Ba'thists. Nobody will help us other than ourselves and our doctrine plus an Islamic heart full of love for God and aware of the permitted and the forbidden. We should understand that Almighty God, who forgives everything except polytheism, has created Buddhists worshipping idols, Christians, Jews with their own ways of worshipping, and Muslims who also have their own ways. Almighty God, who can do everything He wishes, has not made all people believers and united. But He wanted this great earth to include different people. Certain interpretations of God should exist in small areas of the world, but we will not allow idol worshipers to exist on Iraq's land because it is a sacred land.

Explosion Destroys AMIA Offices in Buenos Aires

People Trapped in Building

PY1807141794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1341 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—An explosion has completely destroyed the seven-story building that housed AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association]. It is feared that a large number of people are trapped.

Police arriving on the scene are ordering neighbors and people on the street to remain as quiet as possible, so to be able to locate and rescue people who might be trapped under the rubble.

'Nearly All' Employees Escape

PY1807143394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1415 GMT 18 Jul 94

[All names as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—Just a little after 1100 [1400 GMT], personnel at the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] reported that "nearly all" the employees who had been working in the offices of the Presidency "had been able to escape" from the attack.

An AMIA employee told the media that "Nerwuerguer, Jorge Berendlum, Ana Maria Lodoben, Cinthia Snein, Silvina from the president's office, and Tamara are alright. The downstairs area and the first floor were the parts of the building that were most affected. The people on the second floor, in the back part of the building, were those who were able to escape."

'About 100' Inside During Explosion

PY1807142794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1349 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—DAIA [Delegation of Argentine-Jewish Associations] Chairman Ruben Beraja has estimated that about 100 people were inside the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] building at the time of the explosion.

Meanwhile, medical personnel are working laboriously to rescue the victims. It has been impossible to establish the number of victims.

Peres: 'Terrorist' Element Behind Blast

TA1807142594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Statement by Minister Shim'on Peres on the explosion at the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Peres] We are deeply shocked at the collapse of the six-story building that housed the offices of the Jewish community in Buenos Aires. At this moment we do not have any details on casualties. We are quite worried by what happened. It appears that an anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli element was behind this event, but we do not yet have any details or proof.

[Qol Yisra'el's Hayim Hecht] Do you know with certainty that it was a terrorist attack.

[Peres] Yes, definitely.

Peres on Bombing, Husayn Visit

TA1807185894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by moderator Hayim Yavin and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik at the Jerusalem studios—live]

[Text] [Yavin] We would first like your initial reaction to the Buenos Aires bombing.

[Peres] It is one of shock. The similarity between this attack and the previous one [at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires in March 1992] is striking. The heinous arm that attacked innocent people then, might be the same one that perpetrated this attack. We know where the fingerprints lead. The Argentine foreign minister telephoned me several minutes ago and gave me a report on what happened and expressed the shock of the president and his government. He also said he believes it is a blatant terrorist act. He believes there were about 100 people inside the building. I also spoke with the Israeli ambassador and received a report from him. We immediately turned to the Argentine authorities and requested permission to send a trained rescue team.

[Yavin] I understand the aircraft is now being prepared for take off.

[Peres] Yes, permission was given immediately. It was, of course, a very grave, shocking act, and we will have to make an extreme effort to track down those terrible people.

[Yavin] You heard in the report on the bombing, people, obviously relatives of the fatalities using the word Jew; that it is the tragic common fate of the Jewish people. I would like to ask you if Israel can do more than it is currently doing to contribute to the security of Jewish institutions in the Diaspora?

[Peres] Basically, security in each country is the responsibility of the local government. We cannot work in the underground, we can only operate with the full agreement of the local government. In many places, Jews organize security on their own. Israel will, however, do what it can to gather information, find the culprits, and provide all the help we can to the fatalities of this terrible event, and also in order to prevent it from happening again.

[Yavin] Turning from the Buenos Aires disaster to local news, which is in fact good news. What is your feeling on that?

[Peres] As you said, it is a dual feeling: shock about the disaster, but I will not hide that for me it is a day of great personal satisfaction, of great relief, a day which many of us awaited. It symbolizes a very deep change in the Middle East, and in the positioning and status of the State of Israel. It is definitely a very important day.

[Sukenik] Mr. Peres, there were major debates, right up to the last few days, with the Americans, who thought the Jordanians would not go far without the Syrians, and yet they are doing so. Do you believe Husayn might now sign, or finalize, a genuine peace treaty with Israel without waiting for the Syrians?

[Peres] I would say there is a chance of that happening, although there is no certainty, of course. We are facing seven very important, intense days, in which we will have to listen very earnestly to what we need and to what is happening on the other side. I think that excitement has risen a great deal in Jordan, but so has concern. We must always remember that in negotiations, like in any relations, there are two sides, and we have to try to understand the other side. An opportunity has, however, cropped up and from experience I can only say one thing: We have a third party to the negotiations, which is dynamics. You start something.... [pauses] Look, nobody expected our television journalists to be permitted to go to Petra, as in fact happened yesterday, or to film from al-'Aqabah. That was not planned, but it happened due to the strong wind now blowing.

[Yavin] Mr. Peres, everything is racing ahead, there is sometimes the feeling that it might be racing ahead too fast.

[Peres] What does too fast mean? First of all, not everything is racing ahead. It has opened quickly, that was the surprise, but what difference would it have made had it taken another two weeks? I think that was also the monarch's thinking. If you have decided on a move, why waste two, three weeks, and let all your rivals and enemies summon strength, organize, and threaten?

[Yavin] One of the most sensitive issues with the king—you have made a lot of what were meant to appear to be off-the-cuff pronouncements on it recently—is the holy places and Jordan's involvement in their supervision. Would you invite Husayn, and even use this occasion to do so, to visit the holy places in Jerusalem?

[Peres] Husayn can definitely come to Jerusalem. He would be a most honored guest to all sectors of the city. He can pray on the Temple Mount. We had secret relations for many years, but it is hard to live in peace underground; an underground is for war not peace. What has happened is that peace gained daylight legitimacy and Husayn visiting is very important. By the way, one of the most interesting and intriguing subjects is Jordan's position on Jerusalem and Jerusalem's status for Jordan.

[Sukenik] Is there a chance he will accept such an invitation?

[Peres] I do not know, I think that he will want to see how things develop. He also has a problem with the fantastic speed of developments. He will want to wait for the reaction in the Arab world and at home. On Jerusalem, what happened is that several PLO officials tried to create the impression that we promised to transfer the power and ties King Husayn had with the Waqf to the Palestinians, and that is not the case. We never agreed to such a thing. By the way, we practice great caution toward all churches and all precedents in not transferring powers from one to the other.

[Yavin] So now there is an invitation, we will await the response.

[Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 18 July in a similar interview with Peres, correspondent Ya'aqov Eylon quotes "Secretary of State Christopher as saying that the foreign minister's statement on Syrian sovereignty on the Golan Heights was a courageous statement which helps to define the issues on the agenda. Is there also a similar definition from al-Asad on the meaning of peace?" In a recorded passage, Peres replies: "No, I do not think there has been any change in our relations with Syria, and at this moment the chance to make progress with Syria appears very small."]

Netanyahu on Blast, Peace Talks

TA1807191094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Interview with Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu by moderator Hayim Yavin at the Jerusalem studios—live]

[Excerpt] [Yavin] Good evening to you Binyamin Netanyahu, if this is a good evening indeed. I am seeking your reaction to what happened in Buenos Aires.

[Netanyahu] It is impossible to say good evening on this matter indeed. It is impossible for any person, either Jew or non-Jew, to visualize this monstrosity. Nobody can remain indifferent to this.

On the political level though, I naturally heard the government's reaction. What I did not hear is a reaction from Syria. The prime minister is dining with Christopher this very moment, and I suggest that he relay a message to Hafiz al-Asad through Christopher saying that without Syria's protection, none of these organizations, neither Hizballah nor the Palestinian organizations, could have operated. Since it is reasonable to assume that one of them was involved, the Israeli Government should relay a clear message to Syria whereby it should stop this cover for terrorism and should restrain Hizballah. The opposite of this should surely not be stated: The government should surely not state it is handing sovereignty over the Golan to Syria. A strong, clear message should be relayed to Syria on behalf of the

Israeli Government that we will make no compromise in our battle against terror, not on the political plane either.

[Yavin] Does a terror organization derive its strength from Syria even at such a distance?

[Netanyahu] Past experience at least shows that a country's protection is important. First, it is organizations rather than individuals which perpetrate terror, and second, there are two countries which give cover to these organizations. One is Iran over which we have no influence, but the other is Syria. Many terror organizations are located on Syrian territory, in Damascus, while Syria itself is closely and physically associated with Hizballah in Lebanon. Therefore, the message from the Israeli prime minister to Damascus today should be unequivocal: Stop the terror. We will surely not make concessions to you in this situation. Cease terrorism, period. [passage omitted]

Health Minister Implicates Iran

NC1807192894 Paris AFP in English 1917 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Jerusalem, July 18 (AFP) - Israeli Health Minister Efrayim Sne implicated Iran in a massive explosion Monday [18 July] which flattened the headquarters of a Jewish charity in Argentina and left 22 people dead.

"The trail for this second attack in two years at Buenos Aires seems to lead to Iran and its allies," Sne told the Israeli news agency ITIM. The attack reveals Iran, if that still needed to be done, as a terrorist power," Sne said. "Western countries must end their conciliatory policies towards Iran."

The Israeli embassy in Argentina was also targeted on March 17, 1992, in an bomb attack which killed 30 people and wounded more than 200.

Israel's Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said earlier on Israeli television that there were "striking similarities between the two attacks and it seems to be the same criminal hand behind it." "We know who is pulling the strings," Peres added without elaborating.

In March 1993 Peres said Israel knew the identity of those responsible for the embassy blast. State radio said at the time that Israel had information implicating Iran.

An Israeli Air Force cargo plane is to set off Tuesday for Argentina with a rescue team and equipment, Peres said.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin condemned in a statement the "satanic terrorism" behind the attack on the Jewish Mutual Association building and said Israel "will continue to fight mercilessly against terrorists."

Menem Requests Help in Inquiry

TA1907043894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Argentina has asked Israel to help in the investigation of the bombing. President Carlos Menem phoned Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and also offered his condolences. The premier himself pledged in a statement to hunt down the perpetrators of terrorist attacks until their annihilation. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] Late last night the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem said President Carlos Menem phoned Yitzhaq Rabin to extend condolences—in Menem's words—to the state of Israel as the state of the Jewish people. President Menem said he was amazed that Argentina had been chosen as the scene of such an attack a second time after the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. At the end of the phone call, the Prime Minister's Office said, Menem requested Israel's help in acquiring information—in other words, in the investigation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rabin on Attack, Peace Talks

TA1907075894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by correspondents Ya'el Dan and 'Arad Nir; place not given—live]

[Text] [Dan] Mr. Rabin, an Israeli rescue plane is on its way to Argentina. How can Israel aid Argentina regarding rescue operations and intelligence assistance requested by President Menem?

[Rabin] First, it is inconceivable that the international community remain indifferent to such a grave crime, the murder of innocent people in the Jewish community building in Buenos Aires. To judge past experience—and I think it is permissible to do so—I think it is clear where the threads lead. Moreover, we realized that Hizballah and its sponsors might strike back in response to the sharp hits by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in Lebanon, with some terror attack somewhere in the world.

[Dan] Are you referring to Iran?

[Rabin] I am referring to the followers of the extremist Islamic dogma which precipitates terrorism all over the Arab and Muslim world. In Lebanon it is Hizballah, in the territories Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad. All of these organizations belong to the same system which is entirely directed at murdering innocent people worldwide just because they are Israelis and Jews, out of anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli motives, and especially out of a desire to act against peace.

I want to express my condolences to the bereaved families and to wish a speedy recovery to the wounded. Last night President Menem called me and expressed his deep regret and pain over the Argentine Jews who were killed, wounded, or are still missing. He also expressed condolences to Israel, because he knows that many relatives and friends live in Israel. He is aware of and appreciates Israel's responsibility for Jews worldwide.

[Nir] Mr. Rabin, following the Air Force's operations against Hizballah in Lebanon there have been warnings about possible attacks against Israeli targets. Is it possible that there was an intelligence failure here in locating this particular target?

[Rabin] There were warnings concerning Hizballah operations in south Lebanon against targets in Israel; there were also warnings concerning targets worldwide, but nothing was known about the precise locations. Obviously there is a limit to the steps which can be taken when you do not know the precise location involved. Let me add that to the best of my knowledge the extremist Islamic elements have infrastructure for carrying out terror attacks in the United States, Europe, South America, the Far East, and almost anywhere. The spread of extremist Islamic elements among Muslims living in all the countries and areas I just mentioned enables them to carry out attacks. In many places it has already been proven they have the infrastructure for carrying out attacks. Let me recall here the Twin Towers attack in New York, which was certainly carried out by an extremist Islamic element. We had better wise up to the fact that at the present period an effort is being exerted by an extremist Muslim wave supported by extremist Islamic nationalist elements which are ideologically and practically connected with Iran—I term this wave Khomeynism without Khomeyni....

[Dan, interrupting] Mr. Rabin, you said it is inconceivable that the world remain indifferent to what has happened. Are you implying that the world should organize to exert some kind of pressure against Iran?

[Rabin] The world must organize for practical action, for intelligence and operational cooperation against extremist Islamic terrorism.

[Dan] Is it possible to exert open economic pressure—as well as other forms of pressure—against Iran?

[Rabin] So far the United States has been the only country that has launched a clear policy, the dual containment policy against Iraq and Iran. So far no Western countries in Europe or South America or Far Eastern countries have joined the United States. The present economic situation encourages these countries to tighten their economic relations with Iran. It is necessary, at the same time, to ensure preemptive intelligence operations against extremist Islamic terrorism. If this is not done, I fear we will witness more attacks whenever local elements desire to carry out such attacks and receive the blessing of their sponsors. They have the ability to do so all over the globe.

[Nir] Mr. Rabin, how is it possible to deal with the fact that Jewish targets worldwide are being chosen as targets for retaliation against Israel?

[Rabin] This is painful and cruel, but it again demonstrates our common Jewish fate. It also obligates the countries in which Jews live to implement appropriate measures to improve the security of Jews, especially countries in which there is an extremist Islamic terror infrastructure or the potential for such an infrastructure. I am convinced that most of the countries involved are aware of this.

[Dan] Do you see here an Argentine intelligence failure, or is this one of those events which cannot be prevented?

[Rabin] At this point I do not want to blame anybody. The problem, at this point, centers on two levels. On the immediate level is the need to offer aid. The IDF, via the Foreign Ministry, has offered its aid. We offered comprehensive aid, but Argentina opted for the special IDF rescue team which has acquired excellent experience in removing debris and rescuing people in various places around the world. This unit is already on its way to Argentina. The other thing is operations against extremist Islamic terror elements, especially against those responsible for the heinous attack in Buenos Aires. An international effort should be launched to deal with this viper by crushing its skull.

[Nir] With your permission, let us turn now to other issues. Mr. Rabin, last night you met U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. During the meeting it was suggested that in return for a Syrian statement regarding the intention to establish peace, Israel would state it recognizes Syrian sovereignty on the Golan Heights. Is this true?

[Rabin] No such suggestion was raised and I am unfamiliar with such a proposal. In any event, such a proposal was not raised in our meeting.

[Nir] Do you accept such a proposal?

[Rabin] I do not want to deal with speculation. I think at the present time there are wide gaps between the Israeli and Syrian positions. More time and effort is necessary to bridge these gaps. Look at what is taking place between us and Jordan. The gaps between us and Jordan—especially on the territorial level—are marginal. They are not of the same magnitude as those involved between us and Syria. Yet it took us a long time to reach the meetings in our region, whether bilateral or trilateral meetings involving the Americans, including the open meeting in Washington next week between King Husayn and myself. And this is still not the end of the road. Now all this relates to a relatively easy problem such as peace between Jordan and us. Overcoming the barriers of past animosity is no less difficult than overcoming the practical obstacles.

[Dan] What message will Christopher pass on from you to President al-Asad?

[Rabin] There is no special message. The message is that we want to reach peace with Syria which will give us security. We are willing to reach a territorial compromise in this framework, to make territorial concessions—I do not want to discuss the magnitude of these concessions at this point. The main object, of course, is peace with all this word entails.

[Dan] Do you see any connection between Syria and the Argentine incident?

[Rabin] I do not see any direct connection. It is a fact, however, that Hizballah elements dwell under the protection of the Syrian military deployment in Lebanon. It is a fact that equipment aimed at strengthening Hizballah in Lebanon arrives through Syria. This does not mean that the explosives used in Buenos Aires passed through Damascus or Lebanon. Syria, however, is strengthening Hizballah by harboring it under its military umbrella. We know for a fact that Hizballah was involved in the previous bombing attack in Buenos Aires, and it is not inconceivable that it was involved this time as well.

[Dan] How does this effect our present contacts with Syria?

[Rabin] It is impossible to point to any direct Syrian connection with this attack, beyond the fact that Hizballah is located in areas in which the Syrian Army is deployed.

Rabin Condemns 'Heinous' Attack

TA1807155694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1545 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] A few minutes ago, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin issued a communique regarding the terrorist attack in Buenos Aires. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

In his communique, the prime minister expresses deep shock at the terrorist attack and the fatalities. Satanic terror has once again hit a civilian target; this time, the offices of the Jewish community in Buenos Aires which has not yet recovered from the deadly terrorist attack on the Israeli Embassy two years ago. This is a cowardly, evil, and heinous action, the prime minister said. The Israeli Government sends its condolences to the families of the victims and wishes a speedy recovery to the wounded. Israel will relentlessly continue to hunt down the perpetrators of terror, the prime minister affirmed in his communique.

Rabin Expects U.S. Help in Dialogue With Syria

TA1807164994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Report by Yo'el Nir]

[Text] The prime minister will meet the U.S. secretary of state again tonight, but in a smaller forum than this afternoon's meeting. The first meeting was attended by the entire senior echelon involved in the peace process: Ministers Peres and Sarid, the chief of staff and Major Generals Shahaq and Sagi, ministerial directors general, Ambassador Rabinovich, and the director of the Prime Minister's Bureau. As is usually the case in such forums, a general discussion was held. The prime minister told our correspondent Ron Nesi'el that he did not hear from Christopher any new ideas, but noted:

[Begin Rabin recording] The main problem is not to get new ideas from a third party. The United States wants to assist, but it knows the responsibility for achieving peace is imposed first and foremost on the sides. The great advantage of the U.S. approach is that they do not try to present their own proposals or to pressure and twist the arms of any of the sides. The Syrians are not prepared to meet with us at a senior level, and I am sure the Americans would very much like to reach a direct dialogue at a senior level between us and the Syrians. Therefore, I do not expect U.S. ideas, what I expect from the Americans is to present properly the moods and concepts, to assist in reaching a direct dialogue between Syria and Israel at a suitable level. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said after his meeting with Christopher that it dealt with four issues: The first was the negotiations with the Palestinians. Peres said Christopher brought with him several ideas, and we contributed our ideas. The second subject was Jordan. Peres, in his rich, prophetic way of speech said that Christopher brought a message on how to introduce daylight into the peace process. The third issue was how to expand the negotiations to additional Arab states, and the fourth issue was the multilateral talks.

Christopher said Peres' remarks about Israel's recognition of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights is a courageous declaration which will help in defining the controversial issues.

Prime Minister Rabin said Peres' announcement referred to previous governments and not his government. Rabin is apparently not budging from his position that it is now up to he Syrians to make the next move. In response to Jordan's demand, the prime minister told Christopher that the demarcation of the border is part of a peace accord. Rabin, it can be said, is lowering expectations.

Rabin on Palestinian Erez Rioting, Peace With Syria

TA1807133794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said at the cabinet meeting that he is not prepared to ease inspection procedures at the Erez junction because it could lead to terrorist attacks inside the green line. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that in response to Yasir 'Arafat's accusations that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is responsible for yesterday's deterioration at the Erez junction, Rabin said a leading Palestinian personality in Gaza telephoned 'Arafat toward the end of the riots and told him the Israeli behavior had prevented a disaster. Later, the man personally thanked the IDF officers for their treatment of the events.

Our correspondent adds that in his meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Yitzhaq Rabin said that yesterday's riots were the outcome of the fanning of emotions by Hamas [Islamic Resistance

Movement], which sent hundreds of youths who neither work nor have work permits, to the Erez junction to hurl stones and firebombs. The prime minister expressed his concern about Gaza's economic plight because 'Arafat has still not set up a bureaucracy and has not organized for the administration of funds many foreign countries have donated to the Palestinian Authority. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Rabin said in response to reporters' questions that we aspire to peace and security with Syria, but that we will not be able to deal with the question of a withdrawal on the Golan Heights or territorial concessions, unless it is within a context that includes the meaning of peace, a timetable, and a parallel between normalization in relations and withdrawal. Those are complex issues which have to be discussed, and until we reach an agreement in principle on all of the issues, we will not be able to tell the people of Israel that real progress has been made in the talks with Syria, Rabin said.

Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motion Over Gaza Riots

TA1807170394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] The Knesset rejected by 56 to 44 a no-confidence motion in the government presented by Tzomet and the National Religious Party in the wake of the Gaza rioting. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] Knesset Members Segev and Goldfarb supported the government while their colleague Ester Salmovitz voted with the opposition.

IDF Officer Seriously Wounded in Attack in Rafah

TA1907100594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer was seriously wounded in an incident in Rafah this morning. The family of the officer has been notified. At 0600 an IDF patrol rode near the Egyptian border fence north of the Rafah border terminal. The patrol's officer got down to examine a ladder placed on the fence when fire was opened from ambush. He was seriously wounded and was transferred by helicopter to the Soroka Hospital. The soldiers manning the patrol returned fire, but the terrorists escaped. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has taken responsibility for the attack.

Liba'i on Banning Palestinian Political Activity

TA1807171294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Interview with Justice Minister David Liba'i by correspondent Tamar Asalem on 18 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Asalem] Minister David Liba'i, good evening.

[Liba'i] Good evening.

[Asalem] The question following from the cabinet's decision today to ban Palestinian political activity inside Israel is: What will be the fate of Orient House in East Jerusalem?

[Liba'i] The cabinet did not discuss the status and fate of Orient House. The activities in that building had been sanctioned by previous governments. The issue of Orient House per se did not come up in today's cabinet session.

[Asalem] Does that mean that Faysal al-Husayni and members of the Palestinian Authority can go ahead with their activities at Orient House, such as hosting the Canadian housing minister?

[Liba'i] I will not comment on a specific event. The cabinet discussed a draft law aimed at implementing the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, whereby the Palestinians undertook that the Palestinian Authority would operate in the Palestinian self-rule areas and not in Israel. In order to substantiate their undertaking, the law we are about to legislate will make it clear that the Palestinian Authority, the PLO, or any organization operating on its behalf should not open or operate governmental bodies or offices within the boundaries of Israel—and consequently, by definition, in Jerusalem—unless the Israeli Government finds a reason to grant it special permission.

[Asalem] What will happen if they insist on pursuing their activities inside Israel? What is the punishment or sanctions that will be imposed according to this draft law?

[Liba'i] If they act in clear violation of the law and the agreement, it will be possible to close down that institution in accordance with the proceedings stipulated in this law. Therefore, I believe that the Palestinians will not want to force us to close down institutions and will meticulously abide by the law, and that the government will see no reason to take action against those who signed an agreement with us, assuming that they definitely want to honor it. However, the importance of the law lies in the fact that if they try to outsmart us—and they occasionally try to do that—they will know that they will be facing sanctions, that there is a law, and that there is somebody who can enforce the law.

[Asalem] Not all the cabinet ministers voted in favor of the law. Could you tell us some of their objections?

[Liba'i] Look, I was not reconciled either with the law as it was drafted and had reservations about some of its clauses. For example, the draft law originally stated that the Palestinian Authority or the PLO will not open or operate institutions and will categorically be unable to hold rallies or assemblies. I was of the opinion that the government should allow itself the leeway to make pertinent decisions in accordance with political developments, rather than restrict itself with legislation that does not leave it any leeway.

[Asalem] Justice Minister Liba'i, thank you very much.

Paper Warns of High Expectations in Jordan Talks

TA1907085394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Petra Is Still Far Away"]

[Text] Despite the sweltering heat, the event at 'En 'Avrona was a festive occasion, as befits an official session in overt peace negotiations between two neighboring countries which have long enjoyed clandestine peace. The question, however, is: Is this festivity not clouding our judgment and making us build up expectations which stand very slim chances of coming true?

Had these negotiations preceded the Oslo agreement, Israel would have had a real interest in giving the Jordanians a great deal in exchange for peace, since this would have prevented the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria. Today, however, we know how committed we are to a Palestinian state, and whatever we give Jordan will either come at the expense of that state or ours.

And, Jordan wants a lot: territories (350 square km, mainly in the 'Arava), water, rights in Jerusalem, a status in Judaea and Samaria—and they also expect us to pave their way to the U.S. Treasury and arms arsenal.

And as if all this were not enough, King Husayn continues to declare that he will not sign a separate peace with us.

Any decent peace, even if not a separate one, is welcome. But please, let us not rush to book trips to Petra....

Minister Denies Settlers Housing in New Qiryat Arba'

TA1907060694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Interview with Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by correspondent Amy Rhodes; place and date not given—recorded; first paragraph is Qol Yisra'el introduction]

[Text] Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer has informed settlers from Qiryat Arba' they will not be able to occupy the vacant homes in the Ashmorot Yitzhaq neighborhood. Two weeks ago 15 Qiryat Arba' families squatted in the neighborhood after the terrorist slaying of a teenaged girl from their community. The housing minister explained his decision to reporter Amy Rhodes:

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I told them that I am ready to supply immediately to the 80 families living in the caravans immediate houses.

[Rhodes] Where will these houses be?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] All over, but within the city of Qiryat Arba', not outside the city of Qiryat Arba'.

[Rhodes] Including the neighborhood of Ashmorot Yitzhaq?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Definitely no.

[Rhodes] Why definitely no?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Because there are some reasons. One, that there is a need of a budget to complete the development of the area there. For example, water and electricity, and roads, whatever. The second thing, it will take at least six months to complete it. They have told me that they are not exactly happy. But I assume that they do realize and understand that I am an address, a direct address, to the specific needs of every city in the state of Israel. I am not playing any game which is called a political game.

[Rhodes] Is this decision taken after consulting with Prime Minister Rabin?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Definitely yes. I came with my suggestion to the prime minister, and he blessed it.

New HADASH Knesset Member Sworn In

TA1907084994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Jul 94 p 17

[Report by Gabi Brun]

[Text] Salah Salim, head of the I'billin local council, was sworn in as a Knesset member on behalf of HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] yesterday. Forty-one-year-old Salim is married and the father of three.

Salim was invited to the podium to take his pledge of allegiance at the opening of the Knesset plenum session. He then proceeded to take his place beside his colleague, Hashim Mahamid.

Russian President's Envoy Arrives for Discussions

Seeks 'Independent' Peace Strategy

JN1607200194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Dr. Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian president's special envoy and head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry, and his delegation, have arrived in Amman via the al-Ramtha border post.

Upon arrival, Dr. Posuvalyuk said his visit to Jordan is to discuss the Middle East peace process and the ties between Jordan and Russia. He said the peace process is showing positive signs and the Russian sponsors are taking a real interest in these developments. Russia, he added, wants to hear the views of Jordanian officials and the other interlocutors on how the peace process is going so that his country can formulate an independent strategy.

Envoy: 'Satisfied' With al-Majali Meeting

JN1707150994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali today received Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian president's special envoy and director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern and North African Department, at his office in the Prime Ministry. They discussed bilateral ties and latest developments in the region.

Following the meeting, the Russian envoy spoke to journalists. He said:

[Begin Posuvalyuk recording] As usual, the discussion was divided into two parts. In the first part, we discussed relations between Russia and Jordan. We underlined, in the name of President Yeltsin and the Russian Government, our concern to develop these relation and we found, with satisfaction, a mutual concern on the part of the Jordanian Government to develop relations and exchange interests with Russia. In the second part, we discussed the peace process. We were keen to hear the views of the Jordanian leadership in these days, which, apparently, are witnessing important developments on the Middle East scene. We heard these opinions, which helped the Russian cosponsor develop a better understanding of things. We consider these developments important and in our view these events and developments on the Jordanian track must be supported on the other tracks. On this occasion, I would like to note the importance of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. All in all, we—me and the Russian ambassador—are very satisfied with this meeting. [end recording]

King Receives Envoy, Yeltsin Message

JN1707152494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Today at the Royal Hashemite Court, His Majesty King Husayn received Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy and director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern and North African Department, who conveyed to his majesty a verbal message from President yeltsin.

His Majesty King Husayn briefed the Russian envoy on the latest developments in the peace process, and emphasized the constants of the Jordanian position on this process and Jordan's efforts to reach a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region.

For his part, the Russian envoy emphasized the Russian leadership's appreciation of the central role Jordan and His Majesty King Husayn are playing in the efforts to attain a comprehensive and just peace in the region, and the role played by Jordan over the past years in preserving security and stability in the region.

The Russian envoy expressed the Russian leadership's appreciation of His Majesty King Husayn's wisdom and his positions on various regional and international issues.

Talks dealt with various issues of mutual concern. The meeting was attended by the Russian ambassador in Amman.

Posuvalyuk Departs

JN1707160594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Juk 94

[Text] Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian president's special envoy and director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern and North African Department, and his delegation left Amman this afternoon at the end of an official two-day visit to Jordan. He discussed with a number of ranking officials bilateral relations and the latest developments of the Middle East peace process.

He was seen off at Queen Alia International Airport by the Russian ambassador in Amman, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, and ranking Russian embassy staff.

PLO's Qaddumi Arrives, Makes Statement

JN1907075394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Jul 94 pp 23, 32

[Text] PETRA—Palestinian Foreign Minister Faruq Qaddumi, arrived in Amman yesterday on a short working visit to Jordan. During this visit, he will meet with a number of senior Jordanian officials to discuss developments in the peace process, bilateral relations, and means to develop these relations.

Upon arrival at Queen 'Alia International Airport, Qaddumi was asked by a Jordanian News Agency, PETRA, correspondent about Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and how serious it is at this stage. He said that Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is not mere lip service. It is action that serves the interest of one people. This action cannot be obstructed, harmed, or hampered. This joint cooperation between two people who live on both sides of the Jordan River must continue. In reality, they are one people, one interest, and one fate. We cannot repeat such statements in vain and obstruct these efforts.

He added: I firmly believe, as past experience has shown, that these brothers are one people and share one fate. These ties must be deepened through our interests and continuous coordination on all issues that are important to our people.

Responding to a question on the Palestinian stand toward recent developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track and the start of bilateral negotiations between the two sides yesterday, Qaddumi said that what is taking place on the Jordanian-Israeli track is natural. We entered this settlement process and we should come out with results. We ask God to grant us success on the other Arab tracks. However, we should all have a united stand in order to sign a comprehensive solution.

In reply to a question on the future of Jordanian-Palestinian relations. He said: I am optimistic. Experience proved that they are strong and firm relations even though they were obstructed at times. However, this is the nature of things. Within the one people or the one institution, there are interpretations that must be studied in order to rectify any harm that may have been caused to it because these relations are fateful and cannot be tampered with.

Asked about clashes between the occupation forces and Palestinian citizens, he said: The current stage in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is a stage of security and stability and not a stage of authority as some claim. This means that we should give the masses lasting freedom to move because the masses come up with creative ideas work and initiatives. Hence, we, in fact, want security and stability and not an authority because this authority is incomplete.

Therefore, we really want to restore the Palestinian people's sovereignty over their land. We want to end its occupation along with its material effects.

Present to receive Qaddumi at the airport were Muhammad Khayr Muqbil, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry; 'Umar al-Khatib, Palestinian charge d'affaires in Amman; and embassy staff.

Prime Minister Stresses 'No Unilateral Solution'

JN1807140094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has asserted that Jordan believes in a comprehensive solution to all issues of the Arab nation and that there will be no unilateral solution under any circumstances. He stressed the importance of coordination among all Arab sides taking part in the peace process. He said the final solution should be comprehensive and just, even though the pace of talks on various tracks may differ.

Attending a meeting of the planning and development committee at the Health Ministry, the prime minister added: Jordan, by taking part in the peace process, is seeking to obtain its full rights in land and water, and to find a solution to the refugee problem, as it hosts the largest number of refugees in the world. He pointed out that His Majesty King Husayn's recent visit to the United States and his meetings with the U.S. President and U.S. officials have improved relations between the two countries and has resulted in a plan to extend economic aid to Jordan by rectifying the trade balance between the two countries and providing facilities for Jordan's debts.

Dr. al-Majali reviewed the economic situation, noting that Jordan is a country with limited revenues and potentials, therefore, we should aim to achieve development, security, and stability to promote investment.

Parties React to Peace Negotiations With Israel

JNA, al-'Ahd Parties Rally Behind Talks

JN1907085794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jul 94 p 12

[Report by a staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Two Jordanian political parties on Monday expressed their full support for the Kingdom's peace negotiations with Israel and described the talks that opened in the southern desert frontier as a means to regain Jordanian rights.

A joint statement issued by the Jordanian National Alliance Party [JNA] and the al-'Ahd Party also called for strong national unity behind the Hashemite leadership of the country and for support for the government's negotiating stand "which aims at securing the return of the national rights in line with international principles."

The statement came one day after a coalition of eight other political groups issued a strongly worded statement rejecting the peace negotiations and calling on supporters to stage protest demonstrations. No such marches except a rally attended by 200 students at the University of Jordan were reported on Monday.

The JNA-al-'Ahd statement demanded a complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories, the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the realisation of the right of Palestinian refugees to return home or receive compensation in return for their lost property.

"Negotiations (with Israel) are inevitable to demarcate the border and solve the water and refugee problems," it said.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and the National Action Front (NAF) issued a statement demanding that the government reconsider its decision to hold negotiations with Israel.

The statement asserted that "Israel is seeking a kind of peace that would only ensure its interests and not those of the Arab World."

"No one has the right to concede any part of the Arab land of Palestine which contains holy shrines," it said.

The statement said occupied Jordanian land should be returned to the Kingdom but "not to be traded against other Arab land or through recognising Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem."

"Dealing with the question of Jordanian lands east of the River Jordan means ceding all of Palestine land and considering the Israeli enemy as a natural neighbour, which is detrimental to the nation's interests," added the statement.

"Relying on U.S. guarantees to regain Arab lands and waters is something shameful because the U.S. has been supporting the Zionist enemy over the past four decades, providing funds, weapons and political protection for Israel's action against the Arabs and Muslims," it said.

An IAF leader said meanwhile the party was shamed and saddened by the talks which opened between Israel and Jordan on Monday.

"What is taking place today (Monday) and what will follow is a source of great sorrow and sadness," Hamzah Mansur, spokesman for the front, told REUTERS.

Eight Parties Reject Negotiations

JN1807143994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Jul 94, pp 1, 7

[Report by a staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Eight Jordanian political parties on Sunday [17 July] issued a joint statement rejecting peace talks with Israel and calling on supporters to organise meeting in various governorates to voice opposition to the negotiations that begin in the southern desert on Monday.

The statement said that Jordan and Israel had signed last September a common agenda outlining principles for a peace agreement and followed it up in June with three other documents: one on water, energy, and the environment, another on security and borders and a third one calling for negotiations to culminate in satisfactory solutions, leading to a peace treaty.

"On July 18, 1994, Jordanian-Israeli negotiations are due to start on the demarcation of the borders and on joint projects in development, tourism, mutual relations and the creation of a cultural centre in the Jordan Valley," the sttement said.

"It is clear from these documents that the two sides have already come to a broad agreement on political, economic, security issues and future relations during the Washignton talks, it said.

"These broadline agreements," said the statement, "were a success for Washington and Tel Aviv in their drive to deal separately with the Arab states and to impose their own terms which are designed to serve American and Israeli interests at the expense of Arab national rights."

"The recent agreement in Washington has added a new dimension to what has been known as the official Jordanian principled stand, in that it has ignored the Palestine refugee problem, which was listed on the Jordanian-Israeli common agenda signed last September," said the statement.

"These agreements with Israel represented an acceleration of steps towards normalisation of relations and eventual peace with Israeli without any commitment to safeguarding Arab rights and with obvious relinquishing of Arab historic rights in Palestine," the statement asserted.

"The July 18 meeting, in addition to the Washington meeting, of July 25, are bound to add more dimensions to the negotiations representing a fresh Israeli breach of Arab ranks, coming in the wake of another breach represented in the Oslo and Cairo agreements which were detrimental to Palestinian national rights," it asserted.

"These agreeements with Israel are bound to provide justifications to the other Arab regimes to establish economic and political relations with Israel before the latter withdraws its forces from Arab lands, thus endangering pan-Arab rights and interests," continued the statement.

"Our masses, with all their national and Islamic movements, will not be taken in by the policies of and the promises given by the government because they are all deceptive and misleading, and the coming days will prove that the promises of the alleged prosperous economy and the solution of economic crisis are mere illusions and false," it charged.

"These real dangers facing our people require from all the national and Islamic forces to join ranks and pool their efforts and to safeguard and enhance national unity," the statement said.

The statement called for meetings to express "rejection of all normalisation policies and capitulation and press the demand for full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands including Arab Jerusalem and the restoration of all Jordanian and Palestinian people's rights."

The parties which signed the statement were: The Islamic Action Front, the National Action Front, the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Jordanian Democratic People's Party, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordan Arab Democratic Party, and the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party.

IAF Regrets King, Rabin Meeting

JN1707194994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Amman, 17 Jul (INA)—The Islamic Action Front [IAF] in Jordan has said it fully rejects the negotiations that are intended to be held between Jordan and the Zionist entity this week.

In a statement issued in Amman today, the IAF regretted the meeting that will be held between King Husayn of Jordan and the Zionist prime minister, for it is a meeting with the enemies of the nation and repressors of our Arab people in Palestine.

The statement adds: At a time when the party stresses its interest in restoring every inch of Jordanian territory and water, the party refuses that this should be at the expense of accepting as legitimate the presence of the Zionists on the soil of Palestine and its pearl, Jerusalem.

The statement urges Jordanian negotiators to reconsider their stand and make it harmonious with the stand of the Jordanian people, who have not been consulted on this serious issue.

The statement calls on nationalist parties, popular and professional organizations, and nationalist personalities to play their rule in mobilizing the people and pooling their energies toward serving the nation's issues and confronting the looming dangers as a result of the settlement agreements and the ensuing policies of normalization.

Editorial Views Opening of Jordanian-Israeli Talks

JN1907094994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jul 94 p 6

[Editorial: "History vs Reality on Ground"]

[Text] It is generally agreed that the opening of talks yesterday between Israel and Jordan in Wadi al-'Arabah represents yet another breakthrough in the quest for peace in the Middle East. The fact that Jordanians and Israelis were able to see their own people talking to the other side, face to face, on the border of their two countries, live on television, means that something new is happening and it could change the face of peacemaking in the region for good.

That change will be further deepened tomorrow when the Prime Minister, 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, meets with the Israeli foreign minister, Shimon Peres and the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea.

Secretary Christopher will be arriving in Jordan from Syria where, hopefully, he would have been able to achieve solid progress on the Israeli-Syrian track, thus opening the way to a truly positive change from which all parties can benefit and proceed to the next step with added confidence. Should this turn out to be the case, then His Majesty the King's trip to Washington, and his meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President Bill Clinton, could provide the right impetus for the peace process to take off from there.

But while all these meetings and talks are indeed important, even crucial, to success of the peace effort, the real breakthrough cannot be achieved unless the outstanding issues and disputes are resolved according to U.N. resolutions and international legality, which all parties have accepted as the basis for an Arab-Israeli settlement. Issues like territories, water, refugees, Jerusalem, and security have not yet been addressed seriously and properly; and unless they are, particularly by the Israeli side, meetings can go on for a long time without true peace being established.

Elayaqim Rubenstein, in his address to the opening session of the talks yesterday, expressed hope and sounded upbeat about both the past and the future. But he somehow stumbled when mentioning, or failed to mention, today's problems and their solutions. The present, Mr. Rubenstein ought to be reminded, is not about some project to develop Wadi al-'Arabah or a joint desalination plant to provide more water. It is about returning territories occupied by Israel, as a first step, and then discussing what might be done with bordering territories later. The present is about acknowledging neighbours' water rights, right at the outset, and moving to build plants to increase water supplies at later stages.

Jordanians, Mr. Rubenstein, might want to know, feel that the gestures that they will have made by this time next week will be enough for Israel to start a process of reciprocity towards Jordan. This country can ill-afford protracted negotiations that would produce nothing for its people.

Al-Hirawi Denies 'Link' With Syrian Stance in Talks

NC1807174294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Interview with President Ilyas al-Hirawi by unidentified BBC correspondent; place and date not given—recorded; first two paragraphs are Radio Lebanon introduction]

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has denied that the Lebanese Government has received any information about Warren Christopher's visit to Lebanon. In an interview with the BBC, al-Hirawi said it would be unfortunate were the U.S. Administration or State Department to assume that the Lebanese track is linked in style or method to the Syrian track in the peace talks.

Al-Hirawi said that every track has its own circumstances. He said: We have a land that is occupied and we have a resistance. As for the other [Syrian] track, I do not have to be totally tied up with it. The only link is that we should not sign a peace agreement except—as we agreed at the beginning of the Madrid conference—together.

[Al-Hirawi] It would be very unfortunate were the U.S. Administration, particularly the State Department, to assume that the two tracks are linked. Every track has its own circumstances. We have a land that is occupied and we have a resistance. As for the other track, I do not have to be well-informed about it or completely linked with it. The only link is that we should not sign a peace agreement except—as we agreed at the beginning of the Madrid conference—together. Some people break their word, others keep it.

[Correspondent] Lebanon went to the Madrid Peace Conference in 1991 to be part of a comprehensive process, not just to restore Lebanese land that has nothing to do with the 1967 war.

[Al-Hirawi] When we went to Madrid together we had a full understanding. The Lebanese track has its own framework, that of UN Security Council Resolution 425, a resolution that does not impose on Lebanon the same obligations that the others have. But there has been a full understanding among all the cordon states [surrounding Israel]. Accordingly, these countries used to hold regular meetings, the last of which took place in Lebanon.

[Correspondent] You referred to Resolution 425, passed by the UN Security Council in 1979, concerning Israel's occupation of the border strip in the south. What is the reason for the deadlock in the talks?

[Al-Hirawi] I do not know. When we went to the peace conference we had letters—we still have these letters and hold on to them and keep them rather tenaciously—containing a pledge by the two superpowers—at the time—that Resolution 425 would be implemented. We answered the invitation to the peace talks. We went 12 times to Washington for negotiations. Unfortunately, all the negotiations were a waste of time. We gained nothing whatsoever.

Only once were we asked to present a working paper. We presented it and got back an answer. The answer was a very demanding one. Still, the government looked into all the Israeli conditions and managed to come up with a positive answer.

[Correspondent] How can Israel believe the Lebanese peaceful intentions at a time when resistance is continuing in the south?

[Al-Hirawi] To begin with, the conditions that Israel made, and to which Lebanon replied, were clear. Lebanon, in its turn, made its position clear: The implementation of Resolution 425 will be followed by a prompt Lebanese pledge that not one bullet will be fired in the direction of the Israeli borders. Our request has not yet been answered.

As for the resistance, every nation whose land is occupied has the right to resist. It does not concern me if the others are not resisting. I am speaking for myself.

[Correspondent] There are those who would argue that so long as the peace talks are under way, military operations should stop.

[Al-Hirawi] Let the conditions be stated clearly, then we will tell the resistance fighters to stop. Our conditions are clear: That the withdrawal take place, that a committee be formed to negotiate matters concerning the withdrawal, and that a timetable be prepared. We cannot just tell the resistance to stop until some unspecific time when the withdrawal will take place.

Hizballah Accuses King Husayn of 'Treason' for Talks

NC1807194894 Paris AFP in English 1903 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, July 18 (AFP) - The pro-Iranian Hizballah accused King Husayn of Jordan of "sinking deeper into treason" on Monday [18 July] as his country met for the first time publicly with Israel in the Middle East.

The fundamentalist group said in a statement: "King Husayn is sinking deeper in the swamp of treason and normalisation" with Israel.

It condemned "the violation of the Jordanian-Israeli track of peace negotiations with the holding of talks in the region, and the announcement of a summit" between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington.

Jordan and Israel opened two days of talks along their common ceasefire line in the Wadi al-Arabah desert north of the Red Sea, ahead of the first ever official Husayn-Rabin meeting on July 25.

The Hizballah statement also hit out at Sunday's "massacre" at the Erez checkpoint between Israel and the autonomous Gaza Strip, where violent clashes between the Israeli army and Arab workers left two Palestinians dead and dozens wounded on both sides.

"This massacre is neither the first nor the last to be committed by the Zionist entity," it said.

Hizballah said the fact that the riots coincided with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's new Middle East tour "is proof of the cooperation between Israel and the American administration" in a bid to "reach separate peace accords on Israeli-American conditions."

AL-HAYAH: West Links Bomb With Israel-Hizballah War

NC1907112294 Paris AFP in English 1039 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, July 19 (AFP)—Western intelligence sources have established a link between the bombing of a Jewish charity in Argentina and the war between Israel and Iranian-backed guerrillas in Lebanon, the Arab daily AL-HAYAH said Tuesday [19 July].

The Hizballah was given the go-ahead to carry out a "spectacular act" provided it was "in a region very far from Lebanon and Syria," according to the sources quoted by the London-based daily received here.

It did not specify who had given the group the "go-ahead."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin pointed a finger straight at Iran on Tuesday after the Buenos Aires bombing left at least 22 dead and 127 wounded. "It is clear that the trail in this bombing leads to Muslim extremists," Rabin told Israel's military radio station.

Last Thursday [14 July] AL-HAYAH, also quoting unidentified Western intelligence services, said Hizballah had been given the go-ahead to carry out a "spectacular action against Israelis outside Lebanon to revenge the kidnapping of the militant leader Mustafa al-Dirani."

Al-Dirani was seized from his Lebanon home by Israeli commandos on May 27 and taken to Israel for questioning about the disappearance of Israeli airman Ron Arad missing since 1986. The paper also said the action would revenge an Israeli attack on a Hizballah training camp on June 2 which killed dozens of young guerrillas.

Rabin admitted security services had been put on the alert against feared attacks on Jewish targets throughout the world after "the blows struck by the Israeli army against Hizballah in Lebanon."

AL-HAYAH, whose articles were dated from London and Buenos Aires, also said Hizballah had claimed an attack on the Israeli embassy in Argentina two years ago "in response to Israel killing its secretary general Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi." In fact the attack on March 17, 1992, which killed 30 people and wounded more than 200 was claimed by the Islamic Jihad, the oldest pro-Iranian organisation in Lebanon.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said there were "striking similarities between the two attacks and it seems to be the same criminal hand behind it." "We know who is pulling the strings," Peres added without elaborating.

Hizballah Scholar Rejects Peace With Israel

LD1507220494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] The prominent Lebanese spiritual leader, 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, rejected any kind of peace with the Zionist regime and stressed that the recognition of the Zionist regime is tantamount to giving legitimacy to the oppressor and the arrogants.

Fadlallah, who was delivering Friday prayer sermons at the Imam Rida Mosque in southern suburbs of Beirut, added that the Zionist regime and its arrogant supporters intend to impose their political and economic dominance over all peoples of the region. Therefore the religious law dictates that we do not accept peace with the usurping Zionists.

'Allamah Fadlallah stated his backing for the anti-Zionist resistance in southern Lebanon and called on the people and government of Lebanon to support the resistance.

Paper Views Hizballah Organization, Activities

TA1507101794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 8 Jul 94 pp 5, 22

[Article by No'omi Levitzky: "Endless Battle"]

[Text] The war of attrition waged unceasingly in the Lebanese security zone took its toll again this week. Two soldiers fell in the ongoing battle between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Hizballah. Nineteen-year-old Staff Sergeant Shma'ya Danokh and 21-year-old Lieutenant Yehuda (Udi) Algrabli paid the price this week.

It is late Monday [4 July] morning. Al-Rayhan, an IDF outpost in the outskirts of the security zone, straddling the central axis from Marj 'Uyun to Jazzin, is drowsy with the kind of inertia induced by midday heat. The scene: very close to a pro-Hizballah group of villages.

The line is manned by the Golani Brigade. Exhausted by the heat and the heavy web gear, the men daydream about mom, their girls, the beach. The brigade has been deployed on this line for several months.

Suddenly, they come under infernal fire from every direction. Mortar, Sagger and antitank missiles, recoilless guns and machine guns. Heavy artillery, as well as light weapons. Fire comes from every direction, and troops are unable to identify its source. About 40 Hizballah men had infiltrated into the security zone and were attacking from three different directions. For a moment, they seemed to be advancing on the outpost, trying to take it.

It was another step up for Hizballah: It managed to carry out a genuine military operation involving many troops, intelligence and observation, warfare means transportation. It was a combined, well-planned offensive of a new kind. They emerged from every direction. They had prepared positions overlooking the targeted outposts in advance. Only a few hundred meters separated the outpost from its assailants. A burst of fire slew First Sergeant Shma'ya Danokh.

None of the men in the outpost either saw or heard them approach. The terrain is rugged and overgrown. The Hizballah troops crossed the area quietly, presumably at night. Their heavy equipment was carried by mules. They moved through rocky areas along herd routes and through wadis. They must have stayed in the outpost area more than one night.

By the time the outpost had time to organize, identify the source of fire, and evacuate casualties, the attackers had decamped and dispersed, vanishing into thin air. On Wednesday evening, they again raised their head. Although they fired from a distance this time, their aim was accurate.

A mortar shell landed in the al-Rayhan outpost. Again al-Rayhan, "the outpost of death." Lieutenant Algrabli, a young paratroop officer, a communications company deputy commander, was killed. Today, Friday, 8 July, he would have celebrated his 22d birthday. Another victim, a paratrooper this time.

As usual, the IDF fired back at the source of fire. But how does one locate a single shooter among rocks and villages in south Lebanon? This is Hizballah, a guerrilla organization. This is where its power lies: Like a venomous snake, it emerges from nowhere, stalks its victim while remaining invisible, stings, and disappears.

Two fatalities in one week. "A war of attrition is being waged out of the limelight in south Lebanon," Major General Amnon Shahaq, deputy chief of staff, declared in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Hardly a day passes without incidents in the security zone. It is routine activity, Northern Command personnel say. And yet some soul-searching is in order in a week in which two soldiers lost their lives.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin mentioned it in Paris this week. "The recent Hizballah attacks in Lebanon will require a reassessment of our deployment in the area. We will further have to examine the IDF's operational methods against Hizballah."

Former Northern Command Commander Yosi Peled maintains that small IDF units should carry out initiated operations outside the security zone. It is not done today, and it should become daily operational routine in that region.

"As long as Hizballah is capable of operating on the edge of the security zone, by firing from a distance or by launching operations against us, this situation will continue," Peled predicts. "If we want to change it, we must push Hizballah back from the edge of the security zone. This requires initiated operations by small units, day and night, in central areas, on access roads, in training terrains. We must not leave them alone for a second.

"The question is whether we can lower Hizballah's professional profile under such circumstances. In 1986, they carried out attacks with dozens of people, using artillery, and they took two or three SLA [South Lebanese Army] outposts in night attacks. They took APC's and equipment. We, the IDF, reinforced the SLA and gave their outposts our operational support. It worked. Today there is a different problem. Nowadays, Hizballah attacks IDF outposts. But although there is no foolproof magical solution, we can definitely lower Hizballah's professional profile by appropriate action on our part."

The central Hizballah headquarters is situated in Beirut. It is an organized headquarters, with branches and sub-branches, with a genuine general staff, the so-called " 'Ashura council." Regional commands are subordinate to it. There is one in the Jibshit area in south Lebanon, another in Ba'labakk in al-Biqa'. In addition, there are subregional commands.

The organizational chain of command is very clear, and discipline is strictly observed, although commanders do not wear rank insignia. They systematically take courses and undergo military training. Over the years, they have built a full-fledged training system. Several months ago, they held a large infantry and artillery exercise. They ceased to be a terrorist organization in the traditional sense of the word a long time ago. Over the years, they have become a state within a state in Lebanon.

The Lebanon war placed Hizballah on the Middle East map. Over 10 years ago, within the chaos created by that stupid war, Iran marked Lebanon as the Islamic revolution's target country. Since then, Tehran has been funneling funds, equipment, warfare means, and everything else it finds necessary into Lebanon. Military aid for Hizballah; civilian aid for Shiites in south Lebanon. That is the recipe.

In its early years, when Amal, Nabih Birri's Shiite movement, ruled the wild south of Lebanon, Hizballah was unable to grow. It was then a relatively small terrorist organization, one of a series of terrorist groups that sprouted in that fractured country.

After the Gulf war, most militias—including Amal, which became part of the central Lebanese regime—were disarmed. That was a big day for Hizballah, which did not give up its arms. The war-prone area of south Lebanon fell into Hizballah's hands like a ripe fruit.

The Iranians forwarded huge amounts of money. The Syrians shut their eyes. A structure began emerging: a military arm on the one hand, a civilian arm on the other. Hizballah set up a social welfare organization and launched welfare operations in the Shiite villages in the south. Education was its primary concern. Schools received generous grants. Mosques, too, were a prime target. As for medicine, there is hardly a village without a Hizballah-operated clinic in south Lebanon.

Nowadays Hizballah operates a television station with programs on religion, questions and answers, local issues. Similar to the settlers' Channel 7. Occasionally, it airs films on Hizballah's military operations against Israel. They routinely film their own operations. The attack on the al-Rayhan outpost was presumably also filmed.

Having thus captivated the villagers in the south, Hizballah began recruiting collaborators and building communication centers in the villages. Whenever a Hizballah squad infiltrated into the security zone, it would immediately get in touch with one of these "communication centers." That way they were able to get backup, shelter, food, and hiding places. The squad would hit and run outside the security zone. These were simple terrorist actions, and occasionally, they were suicide operations. They would place an explosive charge, a car bomb, lay an ambush.

The passing months did their job. Squads were sent to Iran and were trained by the Revolutionary Guards. As time went on, Hizballah developed its own training program. Meanwhile, it continued buttressing its positions in Shiite villages in the south. It set up subordinate village militias, built permanent outposts in villages, which became military regions. Squads depart from these regions for military operations.

Hizballah stations men in charge of army affairs in southern villages. The men command their own soldiers. When senior echelons decide on an operation, the man in charge of army affairs assembles his men. In addition, it operates an intelligence network of agents and collaborators, who cruise the area. Hizballah agents have been found even among SLA troops. Whenever an operation in the security zone is planned, scouts are sent to the target area.

These Hizballah activities became possible in the past three years. When the commander of the IDF Northern Command was replaced, strategy was changed, too. Hizballah grew and became stronger. Organized, adept, and disciplined, today it is perceived as a guerrilla organization in the full sense of the word, one with well-established support in the villages from which it operates.

Hizballah activities are financed and inspired by Iran, but the organization itself exists in the shadow of Syrian auspices. Hizballah would have been unable to operate as it does without at least tacit Syrian consent. Hizballah's military center is situated in the vicinity of the Syrian border. A major part of its equipment comes from Iran to Syria and then to Lebanon. The Syrians can control and inspect everything, and they hold the keys to the operations. Syrian intelligence is extensively deployed throughout al-Biqa', and its ruling decides everything. Should al-Asad so wish, Hizballah will operate undisturbed. Were he to decide otherwise, he would be able to ruin the foundation of the organization's strength within a short time.

Al-Asad is playing a very sophisticated game here. He curbs Hizballah, but is at the same time using it for his own needs. He knows that Hizballah, a particularly radical organization, can easily become uncontrollable. What does he want? Controlled unrest.

He allows the Iranians considerable freedom of action. Money, weapons, equipment, everything else is transferred to Hizballah with Syria's sanction. Syria maintains an interesting relationship with Iran. A strategic alliance on one hand, a kind of implicit threat to the United States and Israel in case the peace process does not do well, and a tactical alliance on the other hand, motivated by the fear that Iran is liable to cause domestic upheaval inside Syria itself, upsetting his regime.

The ensuing agreement: Revolutionary Iran stays out of Syria. In return, al-Asad allows it free access to Hizballah in Lebanon. Al-Asad is winking at Clinton with one eye and at Tehran with the other.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due to land here in about 10 days. He will launch a shuttle tour of the region in an attempt to promote peace between Israel and Syria. In anticipation of such visits, al-Asad usually tends to moderate Hizballah's activities. Al-Asad hints to Clinton and Rabin: Give me what I want—namely, the Golan—and I will arrange for you to have a quiet Israeli-Lebanese border. For al-Asad, Hizballah is not just a bank but also an insurance company and an investment house. For al- Asad, an arrangement in Lebanon, withdrawal from the security zone, and the termination of Hizballah activities on the Lebanese border are part and parcel of a comprehensive arrangement with Syria.

At the end of 1991, when Hizballah began gathering strength in south Lebanon, when its capability improved and its operations became more sophisticated, the number of suicide operations decreased. Its operations, which became more professional, aimed to cause as many Israeli and SLA casualties as possible without provoking the IDF into a direct confrontation. They preferred to place a roadside charge and withdraw, to ambush a convoy and flee. In October, they ambushed a Golani unit, in February a group of paratroopers. In June, they fired antitank missiles at a convoy on its way to the Beaufort.

Recently, Hizballah began liquidating members of the SLA security apparatus. Such operations require very accurate intelligence, a quiet penetration capability, and commando-style operational mastery. They have been using Sagger antitank missiles and antiaircraft Sam-7's since mid-1992.

Operation Accountability and the ensuing understandings limited Hizballah's operations inside Israel. Syria stemmed that flow. No katyushas at the Galilee, no infiltrations into Israel. These are the new rules of the game. Yet these rules left the SLA exposed and vulnerable. Itching to act, Hizballah began firing the katyushas at civilian population centers in the security zone.

The understandings protected Qiryat Shemona but made Marj 'Uyun an easy target. The result: heavy resentment in the SLA. There was talk there about blood for blood, about Jewish children being worth more than Lebanese, that Israel had deserted them, that it took care only of itself, while they, SLA personnel, were made to look like suckers. SLA morale hit rock bottom. A series of defections followed, and the SLA seemed on the verge of collapse.

The SLA's sense of impotence shifted the burden to the IDF's frontline units. They were charged with more and more tasks. IDF troops were now forced to carry out tasks formerly discharged by the SLA. At that point, Israel appealed to the Americans and asked that the range of understandings with the Syrians be extended to include a ban on katyushas not only against Israel but also against south Lebanese civilian centers.

Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, met in his office with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Edward Djerejian and elucidated these points. Later he also met with Robert Pelletreau, one of the candidates to replace Djerejian soon. The message was relayed to the Syrians, and no katyushas have been fired at Marj 'Uyun since. Further proof of Syrian control over Hizballah's activities.

The Air Force raid on 'Ayn al-Dardarah, a Hizballah training base in al-Biqa', several weeks ago dealt Hizballah a heavy blow. About 30 new recruits, mostly very young, 18-19 years old, were killed in the bombardment. Foreign sources spoke of a terrible frenzy that followed. Parents of the dead and the wounded were furious with Hizballah.

Mustafa al-Dirani's abduction also sowed some confusion among Hizballah activists. It was not that they were especially interested in al-Dirani. He is not one of them. They were worried about the IDF incursion deep into their territory and the accurate delivery.

The perfectly orchestrated offensive on the al-Rayhan outpost this week was not perceived in the IDF as an act of revenge for the lethal bombardment of 'Ayn al-Dardarah. It was perceived as an act of defiance, announcing: We are still here, alive and kicking. The IDF is afraid that revenge will come. The question that Israel should ask is: What are we actually doing there?

Government Fails To Address Media Bill Issue

NC1807202394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Statement by Muhsin Dallul, defense minister and acting information minister, in Beirut on 18 July—recorded]

[Text] The cabinet held a meeting under the prime minister this afternoon. The cabinet studied the issue of audio-visual media and stressed that its ideas are compatible with the Chamber of Deputies' ideas in this connection, especially in regard to the need to find a permanent legal framework to organize this sector and to stop all forms of controversy that have surrounded this issue for several years. The cabinet believes that this framework can be found in the [government] bill currently in the custody of the Chamber of Deputies.

The cabinet affirms its adherence to the regulations observed in our parliamentary democratic system and emphasizes the need to respect the law and not to use it in a way that harms the public order, media freedoms, and the requirements of national accord.

The national accord document specifically calls for the reorganization of all media services within the law and within the framework of responsible freedom to serve the goals of detente and end the state of war.

The government feels that the Chamber of Deputies in its meetings on 13 and 14 July showed willingness to study and approve the bill on organizing audio-visual media in a sound legal framework and in accordance with suitable technical rules. In order for the government to be able, following the issuance of the law, to discuss the license applications quickly, the cabinet has asked the information minister to request all television and radio establishments in Lebanon to prepare files on these establishments and to submit these files to the Information Ministry within one month so that the ministry can study them.

Jordan's Royal Court Chief Zayd Bin-Shakir Visits

Arrives in Beirut

NC1507180294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Jordanian Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir arrived in Beirut from Amman this afternoon on a private visit of several days. He immediately met with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri. Jordanian Ambassador to Lebanon Fakhri Abu-Talib attended.

Received by al-Hirawi

NC1607164694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi at noon today received Jordanian Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir in the presence of Jordanian Ambassador to Lebanon Fakhri Abu-Talib. They reviewed Lebanese-Jordanian relations and the situation in the region.

Departs After 3-Day Visit

NC1707094394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Jordanian Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir left Beirut for Amman this morning following a private three-day visit to Lebanon with some members of his family.

Jordanian Ambassador Fakhri Abu-Talib, embassy staff, and other personalities saw him off at the airport.

Officials on Syrian-Lebanese Economic Integration

JN1607205794 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 6 Jul 94 pp 1, 11

[Text] Beirut—Nasri Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council, has announced that Lebanon and Syria are in the process of preparing new cooperation agreements between them in order to complete the general frameworks for restoring a normal economic cycle between them.

In a statement to the Lebanese paper SAWT AL-WATAN published yesterday, Khuri said the two countries are proceeding toward economic integration. Khuri pointed out that serious work has begun there to implement the joint transport agreement between them and to facilitate transport between Syria and Lebanon. Khuri pointed out that an agreement has been reached to establish a common Syrian-Lebanese border post and that two engineering firms have been asked to prepare initial studies for this border post. He expressed the hope that this step would be carried out within a period of not more than two years.

In the meantime, the standing Syrian-Lebanese committee for expediting and easing procedures for travelers yesterday visited the border posts of al-'Aridah, 'Abbudiyah, and Dabbusiyah. The tour aimed at discussing the possibility of establishing common border posts at these border points and improving existing posts in order to facilitate procedures for travelers crossing from both countries.

British Trade Delegation Arrives in Beirut

NC1807210494 Paris AFP in English 1614 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, July 18 (AFP)—A British trade delegation arrived in Beirut Monday [18 July] to explore ways of getting a slice of the Lebanese building materials market.

The 28-strong delegation of manufacturers and exporters will look at the opportunities provided by the booming Lebanese market now the country is rebuilding after the 1975-1990 civil war.

The five-day visit is backed by the British Trade Department, the British embassy here said.

Warren Christopher Arrives in Damascus

JN1907082894 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0805 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Damascus, 19 Jul (SANA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his wife arrived in Damascus at 1030 on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife, a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Received by Al-Asad

JN1907103894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the People's Palace at 1200 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Middle East Peace Coordinator Dennis Ross attended the meeting.

Mr. Christopher and his wife arrived in Damascus at 1030 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife, a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

'High-Ranking' Official Previews Christopher Talks

MM1807113194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jul 94 p 5

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Damascus Willing To Discuss 'Everything' With Christopher"]

[Excerpt] Damascus—Damascus has vehemently criticized partial agreements, stressing its refusal to depart from the "substance" and "spirit" of the peace negotiations' foundations. However, it pointed out that Syria does not want to "obstruct anyone's work." It expressed its willingness to discuss with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher "everything within the boundaries of national sovereignty."

A high-ranking Syrian official has told AL-HAYAH that what has happened so far, namely "partial solutions and secret negotiations" on the other negotiation tracks, "has not helped to achieve progress toward a comprehensive solution." The official pointed out that "everyone acknowledges that there is not a comprehensive solution at present." The official stressed that a comprehensive peace settlement "is one of the peace process' foundations, and the process' aim is specifically a just and comprehensive peace." [passage omitted]

U.S. Peacemaking Efforts Welcomed by Minister

JN1807125094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Report by Sana' al-Imam from Damascus]

[Text] On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's arrival in Damascus to unblock the jammed Syrian-Israeli track, Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman told Radio Monte Carlo that his country welcomes any U.S. effort to propel the peace process forward. The U.S. Administration, according to Dr. Salman, is making real efforts toward that end, but it has yet to sway Israel, which remains unresponsive to UN resolutions mandating an Israeli pullback to the 1967 borders and from south Lebanon.

Salman hopes Christopher's trip will produce a breakthrough that will promote a fair and comprehensive Middle East settlement based on UN resolutions in which the U.S. initiative is grounded.

He dismissed any suggestion Syria is feeling isolated as a result of the Palestinians and Jordanians reaching bilateral agreements with Israel. Syria, he explained, draws its strength from UN resolutions endorsed by the whole world.

Russian Envoy Seeking 'Important Development'

MM1807132994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani]

[Text] Damascus—As a part of Russia's fresh efforts in the peace process, Viktor Posuvalyuk, special envoy of the Russian president, will visit Syria for talks with Syrian officials on the peace process and Russian views on developments. After Damascus the Russian envoy will go to Amman for talks with Jordanian officials on the peace process.

Posuvalyuk's visit to Damascus and Amman precedes U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, expected to take place within days. The aim of the Russian envoy's visit is to convey Russian views on the chance of boosting and reactivating the peace process, particularly in view of the continuing obstacles and methods of procrastination and delaying aimed at dragging some Arab parties into separate negotiations. Russia, through statements by its senior officials, has always emphasized Syria's important and central role in the peace process.

On a previous visit to Damascus in May Posuvalyuk said that the Syrian role was essential to the peace process and could generate a positive atmosphere for success on the other tracks.

The Russian envoy now seeks to bring about an important development in the peace process on the basis of the

Madrid conference and the UN resolutions, to steer the parties to a formula for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Russia supports Syria's position that partial and separate agreements do not lead to peace. A Syrian official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Syria would welcome any serious and sincere efforts, whether by the Russian partner in the peace process or the United States, the main partner in the process, but all efforts and approaches will fail so long as Israel continues with its games and attempts to drag the parties into separate processes, impose terms unacceptable to Syria, and place obstacles and plant mines on the road to peace.

On Christopher's tour, the Syrian official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Syria's position on the eve of Christopher's visit to the region was clear and unambiguous and can be summed up in full rejection of partial and separate solutions, non-discussion of any point except on the basis of the peace initiative and full withdrawal, and refusal to have the negotiations moved to the region. Syria insists irrevocably on full withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the other occupied Arab territories. Syria has rejected Israeli withdrawal in three stages over a number of years beginning with Majdal Shams and accepts nothing less than a return to the pre-June 1967 lines, and it would not agree to discuss matters related to peace, normalization of relations, opening of borders, and opening of embassies because returning of all the Golan territory to mother Syria is a right and it must not be in return for anything. Other matters would be discussed when the time comes after acceptance of withdrawal and absolute Syrian sovereignty over the Golan, and security should be equal on both sides of the Syrian-Israeli borders.

Diplomatic sources in Damascus expect Christopher to bring proposals and points related to the questions of security, deployment of U.S. and international forces in the Golan, and some other ideas that could constitute a reasonable introduction to the dialogue.

Al-Shar' Receives Russian Official

JN1607130194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern and North African Department. Hunayn Hatim, head of the Foreign Ministry's East Europe Department, and Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Zotov attended. Discussion during the meeting revolved around the situation in the region, the latest developments in the peace process, and Syrian-Russian relations.

Israeli Commitment To Withdrawal Said Required

JN1907134994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has begun a new tour to break the deadlock in the peace process. Before that, U.S. President Bill Clinton held a telephone conversation with President Hafiz al-Asad, during which the U.S. President reiterated his commitment and that of his administration to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace. The other sponsor, the Russian Federation, has also expressed a similar view about the vitality and importance of peace.

Syria supports the desire of the sponsors of the peace process and the international community to make the peace process succeed. The whole world has become convinced of Syria's true aspiration for a just and comprehensive peace. This, however, does not prevent any observer from noting that the obstacles that have obstructed the path of peace and stalemated the peace process are still the same.

These obstacles, which are of Israeli origin, have not been removed from the path of the peace process. In fact, Israel has added new political obstacles and violations that amounted to terrorism and collective massacres in the occupied Arab territories, such as what takes place in Lebanon daily and what happened the day before yesterday in the Gaza Strip.

On the political level, Israel has not announced any commitment to a comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, even though it has attempted to create the impression that it has offered what it calls facilities or concessions when Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated that Israel recognizes Syrian sovereignty over the Golan. Even this statement—useless as it is—has been disavowed by Yitzhaq Rabin. Despite this, we will have a look at it. It seems that Israel has noticed that its previous play with words, especially the phrase uttered by Rabin about a withdrawal in the Golan and not from the Golan, is now hackneyed. So Israel replaced it with a statement by Shim'on Peres on Israel's recognition of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan.

Needless to say, this statement—notwithstanding Rabin's disavowal of it—has not fooled anyone about the truth of Israel's rejection of the requirements for a just peace, represented in full withdrawal from the Golan. Syrian sovereignty over the Golan is a self-evident fact. It is indeed the primary self-evident fact, exactly like sunrise and sunset.

Israel is not required to rediscover these self-evident facts. Consequently, Israeli talk about Syrian sovereignty over the Golan is no more than words unless these words are accompanied by withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories; that is, applying the land-for-peace principle, on whose basis the Madrid conference was held.

Observers realize that Israel is still departing further from the frame of reference of the peace process through separate and partial solutions. It is clear to everybody now, after a long period has elapsed since the experiment of partial solutions, that these solutions are not in the interest of peace and security, and therefore, do not serve the cause of peace. Instead, they further complicate matters. Syria has realized this fact right from the very beginning. This is why it has repeatedly asserted its rejection of all formulas of relinquishment or bargaining over any grain of the occupied soil. Instead, it has continued to work very seriously for a comprehensive peace based on full Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines.

The obstacles that faced the peace process for around three years are still the same. Therefore, any efforts for a just peace must concentrate on the Israeli position and seek a clear, public commitment to the implementation of the resolutions of the international community that stipulate a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. This is Syria's principled, constant position on whose basis it has been working for peace and asserting its full openness to a just and comprehensive peace and its willingness to discuss all the requirements for such a peace. The clear frameworks of this peace were laid down by the Madrid conference and the U.S. initiative, stemming from UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle. Israel has so far offered vague verbal formulas and practices that contradict the essence and foundations of peace.

Israeli Media Cited on Rabin-Husayn Talks

JN1607142894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Occupied Palestine—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said the Washington meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and King Husayn of Jordan will develop relations to a good degree of openness and hope.

In an interview with Israeli Radio today, Peres said: True, there were occasional, secret relations between the two countries, but the public meeting will create a new reality and end the secrecy that in the past characterized this kind of meeting.

He said he thinks the delineation of Israeli-Jordanian borders will not be easy but that it will be possible to resolve this issue in a reasonable way.

Benyamin Netanyahu, leader of the Israeli opposition Likud Party, said any progress toward signing a peace treaty with Jordan is welcome. Netanyahu said he thinks reaching such a treaty will prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state.

In Amman, a responsible Jordanian official who participated in past talks with Israel has said the time of taboos over holding Jordanian-Israeli meetings is gone.

Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan said the Jordanian-Israeli summit will be an important step on the path of peace between Jordan and Israel.

Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, official spokesman of the Jordanian delegation to the talks with Israel, said Jordan pins great hopes on the summit meeting between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington on 25 July. In a radio interview today, al-Mu'ashshir said Jordan hopes this meeting will help Jordan economically and politically. Al-Mu'ashshir stressed Jordan is committed to the agenda for direct Jordanian-Israeli talks that was signed on 14 September 1993. Al-Mu'ashshir did not rule out the possibility of signing a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. He said such a treaty awaits the conclusion of certain issues on the agenda.

Former German Minister Met by Qaddah, Al-Shar'

JN1607143494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Today comrade Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received (Hans Eurgen Shisheniski), a former German minister, chairman of the Middle East Committee at the Socialist International, and head of the German-Arab Syrian Friendship Society.

The discussion centered on the regional situation, peace process developments, and Syria's firm position on just and comprehensive peace.

For his part, Mr. (Shisheniski) stressed the need for returning the Golan Heights to Syria in order to achieve comprehensive peace in the region.

Today Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also received (Hans Eurgen Shisheniski), chairman of the Middle East Committee at the Socialist International. Discussion centered on international developments, Syrian-European ties, Syrian-German ties, and the latest developments in the peace process.

Received by Vice President

JN1707151294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] At 1000 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received (Hans Eurgen Shisheniski), chairman of the Middle East Committee at the Socialist International, and a former German minister. Talks during the meeting dealt with the regional situation and bilateral relations.

Afghanistan

Opposition Coalition Calls For ICO, UN Intervention

LD1507193694 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] The coalition opposing Borhanoddin Rabbani, at the end of his term as president, has called for the intervention of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] and the UN in order to fill the power vacuum in Afghanistan. In a statement, the opposition coalition has announced it will support any solution that leads to the establishment of a lasting cease-fire, the formation of a government of national unity, the withdrawal of weapons from Kabul, the creation of a national army, and general elections before next winter. The opposition coalition has also called on the ICO to put an end to Saudi Arabian aid to Rabbani's government.

50 Injured in Missile Attacks on Kabul

LD1807170494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] The Golboddin-Dostam-Karmal's militias fired over 100 missiles at the residential areas of Kabul city today.

A source in Kabul garrison reports that in the course of savage attacks by the criminal militias, a total of 130 missiles were fired on residential areas and public institutes.

In today's savage attacks, the western areas of Kabul, including the military college and Pol-e Sukhta, were the targets of missile attack.

Kabul hospitals put the figure of those injured in today's missile attacks at around 50 people. In addition to the injuries suffered by the people of Kabul caused by missilkes fired by Golboddin-Dostam-Karmal, their homes have been destroyed and they have suffered financial loss.

No report is available so far on the number of casualties [as heard].

India

'Balanced Security' Formula for PRC Border Talks

BK1807153994 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 16 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] New Delhi—India will apply the formula of "equal and balanced security" in Sino-Indian discussions on identifying the Line of Actual Control [LAC] and the disengagement of forces, Foreign Secretary K Srinivasan said at a Press conference in the Capital on Friday.

"Equal and balanced security," Mr Srinivisan said, would mean predictability with no surprises on the security situation at the borders, besides avoiding misunderstandings.

The Joint Working Croup (JWG), which had its first meeting after the signing of the Peace and Tranquility Agreement (though seventh in the series of talks), had started working on the identification of the LAC in the eastern sector at points where forces were in "close proximity". Mr Srinivasan said he preferred to use the term "close proximity" rather than "close confrontation" which the Chinese were using on the subject.

Sino-Indian relations were on the upswing and there were encouraging signs on all fronts the Foreign Secretary said. At the recent JWG, there had been "very good exchanges" on bilateral issues and on points of convergence on international affairs of mutual concern. These exchanges are likely to be reflected during Chinese Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen's visit, beginning Sunday.

The Foreign Secretary expressed hope that there would be "some first results next year".

The Sino-Indian border was "effectively peaceful" with no tension and "no chance of inadvertently or otherwise arrived at hostilities", Mr Srinivasan said. Several pilgrim posts and border trading posts are likely to be opened.

The two sides agreed to set up two more points of contact on the border in addition to the two already in existence for the meeting of local Army commanders. These points are activated for the meeting twice a year while communication links remain operative throughout the year.

Asked about the Chinese position on Sikkim, Mr Srinivasan said China was the only country which had not explicitly recognised Sikkim as a part of the Indian Union. But since the two sides were discussing the identification of the LAC, it implied the recognition of the reality of the status of Sikkim, he added.

There were differences of opinion regarding the LAC. There were differences on where the McMahon Line lay on the ground and on the map, as it was a fairly thick line on a small-scale map with few descriptive details.

India is of the view that the international border follows the high watershed and "we are very clear on where the high watershed is", Mr Srinivasan said. The first five JWG meetings discussed merits of first taking up the eastern, middle or western sectors and later drafted the Peace and Tranquility Agreement. The current talks were two steps away from the question of border issue, for they were concentrating on the identification of LAC.

Border Trade With China Resumes in Himachal Pradesh

BK1807045494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Trade ties between India and China were resumed yesterday after a gap of 32 years from Shipki La Pass in Kinnur District of Himachal Pradesh. The deputy commissioner of Kinnaur, Mr. Desh Deepak, supervised the formalities. Fifty-one traders from India were issued permits to cross over to Tibet on China's side from 1300 feet high Shipki La Pass.

AIR [All India Radio] Simla correspondent reports that a trading complex each on the Chinese side at (Kink) and on the Indian side at Nanian is being constructed. From the Indian side, rice, pulses, and local handicraft items were traded.

PRC's Qian Qichen Stresses Improved Economic Ties

BK1807070794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] India and China began talks in New Delhi today on bilateral, regional, and international issues and reviewed the progress in the implementation of the agreement on peace and tranquility on the border. The Chinese vice premier and minister for foreign affairs, Mr. Qian Qichen, during a meeting with the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, stressed the need for expanding bilateral economic cooperation. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee is leading the Indian delegation at the talks. India and China will be signing two agreements on avoidance of double taxation and banking during Mr. Qian's visit.

Comments on Bilateral Issues

BK1807162994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] China says that India and Pakistan should settle the Kashmir issue through bilateral discussions. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, the Chinese vice premier and foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, said there is no need for third party intervention. Replying to a question on the Chinese position regarding Sikkim's accession to India, Mr. Qichen said Beijing is not sticking to its opposition to the accession as it did in 1970's. On troop reduction along the Line of Control following the signing of the agreement for maintaining peace and tranquillity, the Chinese vice premier said both the sides are in close consultation on the question. He expressed the hope that border will become peaceful following improved relations in economic and trade fronts. Explaining the delay over solving the border issue, Mr. Qichen quoted the prime minister, Mr. Rao, as saying that complicated questions cannot be expected to be resolved overnight. The Chinese vice premier denied reports that China is dumping nuclear wastes in Tibet and described the reports as rumours. He also denied there is any demographic change in Tibet and said 90 percent of the population consists of Tibetans. On the Sino-Indian relations, Mr. Qichen said there are bright prospects for improving relations. He expressed satisfaction over the 25 percent increase in the volume of trade between the two countries. He said Beijing wants a peaceful international situation for the success of its economic reforms.

Earlier, Mr. Qian Qichen called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. Dr. Sharma recalled the historic relations between the two countries. Mr. Qichen felt that India and China together can play a major role in international affairs.

The Chinese vice premier also called on the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao. During the meeting, Mr. Rao said both the countries should exchange their experiences in the implementation of economic reforms. This can help in carrying forward the reforms. Mr. Rao expressed satisfaction at the mature approach followed by New Delhi and Beijing for improving their relations. The two leaders underlined the importance for cooperation in the economic sector in the context of the new international economic order. They agreed that both sides should strengthen the cooperation in new areas which are being identified.

India and China today signed an agreement for avoiding double taxation and preventing tax evasion. The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the visiting Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, signed the agreement in New Delhi. It also envisages promoting bilateral trade and also investments and transfer of technology. The agreement will come into force 30 days after both the countries complete the legal formalities. Under the agreement, India and China have decided to offer concessional taxes on income from transfer of technology and investment.

Accord Signed With China To Promote Bilateral Trade

BK1807092994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] India and China have signed an agreement for avoiding double taxation and preventing tax evasion. The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, signed the agreement in New Delhi today for promoting bilateral trade as also investments and transfer of technology. It will come into force 30 days after both the countries complete the legal formalities. Under the agreement, India and China have decided to offer concessional taxes on income from transfer of technology and investment. This levy will be lower than the domestic rate. The two countries will also help the tax payers in resolving tax disputes.

Commentary Views Significance of Accord

BK1907043394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Commentary by Sunit Chakravarty]

[Text] Ten months ago, during his visit to China, Prime Minister Narasimha Rao had told a gathering at the Beijing University of the need for renewed efforts to reinforce economic cooperation between the two countries. He said we still have to tap the full potential of the possibilities that exist for the two large economies to interact in the economic sphere and several modalities to realize this immense potential could be considered. [sentence as heard] Concrete questions related to that topic figured prominently during the Chinese commerce minister, Madam Wu Yi's trip to this country last month.

Now with the arrival in New Delhi of China's vice premier and minister for foreign affairs, Mr. Qian Qichen, for widening talks, a major step in that direction has been taken with the signing of a valuable agreement. This accord signed yesterday by Mr. Qian Qichen and our finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, relates to the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income. Specifically, this agreement provides for rates of taxation lower than the domestic tax rates on income from transfer of technology and investment. It would assist tax payers in resolving tax disputes and also strengthen exchange of information to prevent tax evasion. It is to come into force 30 days after the date on which legal formalities are completed by both the countries. This accord is expected to go a long way in promoting mutual trade and flow of investment and technology.

Sino-Indian trade remained exceedingly low for years at a stretch before registering a marked increase in the last two years. In 1993, it grew by 100 percent over the previous year's level with Chinese exports to India rising by 66.5 percent and Chinese imports from India rising by 130 percent. The current visit of Mr. Qian Qichen is expected to pave the way for increased Chinese imports of several Indian commodities, including iron ore and concentrates, chrome ore, iron and steel products, and synthetic fiber and yarn. This will help in enhancing Indian imports from China items such as coking coal, chemicals, power station equipment, pharmaceuticals, and newsprint.

During his courtesy call on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, Mr. Qian Qichen exuded optimism that due to stability, economic development, and growing foreign investment in India, Sino-Indian economic ties would expand in the coming days. The agreement signed yesterday assumes considerable importance in the light of such an observation.

Iran

'Zionist Regime' Links Iran to Argentina Explosion

LD1907101694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] The authorities of the Zionist regime have begun widespread efforts to link in a certain way the explosion at the headquarters of the joint union of the Zionist regime and Argentina with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The prime minister of the Zionist regime claimed this morning that Iran was involved in this explosion. A number of the authorities of the Zionist regime in separate interviews have accused Iran of being involved in this explosion.

Spokesman Denies Involvement

LD1907100894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], by rejecting the allegations made by some authorities of the Zionist regime, has denied any IRI involvement in the explosion at the Argentine-Israeli Association building in Buenos Aires. He referred to it as an action similar to the action undertaken by the Mosad and mercenaries of the Zionists in the explosion of a Christian church in Beirut.

Mr. Mohammadi stated that Islamic Iran has itself received many blows from terrorism and that it rejects resorting to such methods. He said: The fact that the results of investigations into Israel's Argentine embassy explosion in 1992 was kept vague led to a situation whereby the Zionist regime, which resorts to the most inhumane methods such as the explosion at the Christian church in Beirut and the Hebron mosque massacre, can continue the policy of accusing others so as to realize its illegitimate political objectives.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman condemned terrorist actions against innocent people, whatever their religion or nationality.

Christopher Trip, Argentina Blast Linkage Seen

NC1907090394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in occupied Palestine yesterday and held talks with the heads of the Zionist regime. He thus initiated a new diplomatic move to pave the way for the resumption of the compromising talks between the Arab governments and the Zionist regime.

Christopher commences his new mission after a hiatus of many months in the bilateral talks in Washington and after efforts to reactivate the wheels of compromise in the region have had minimal results. There is little optimism among political experts regarding the future of these minimal results, especially since even this subliminal gain was basically achieved outside the framework of the Washington talks. This is why it has further highlighted the weakness of this series of talks.

Political experts believe Syria is the main and decisive side in the talks on the compromise with the Zionist regime; it has not succumbed to the unjust policies and demands of that regime. After one round of talks with the occupying regime's officials, Christopher will leave Tel Aviv for Damascus so that he can try his luck again with the Syrian echelons.

The historical experience of the Middle East crisis has proven that the Syrian statesmen are seasoned negotiators but also have intransigent stances. The unprincipled actions of the Zionist regime in the region, actions that occasionally take their toll on the Palestinian and Lebanese people, create a considerable rift in the trend of the talks and thus engender reasons, in practice, for the Syrian negotiators not to surrender.

Before Christopher's new initiative, Washington and Tel Aviv sought to revive the Amman pawn to exert pressure on Damascus but it does not appear that this move will isolate Syria in the political arena in the current complicated game.

On the eve of Christopher's visit, the Zionist regime's echelons have staged the usual bloody crisis in Gaza so that in the fallout of the tension stemming from it the U.S. emissary can exert greater pressure on Damascus and use it as a pretext to motivate it to sign a compromise accord. But the negative repercussions of this bloodbath could, in practice, undermine these talks.

Some political analysts have pointed out the probability that the explosion at the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] center in the Argentine capital was carried out by the Zionist regime's intelligence apparatus Mosad in conjunction with the CIA so that they can use the propaganda atmosphere generated by it to shatter Syria's resistance to the unjust proposals of the Zionist regime.

These analysts believe that this pattern of creating a crisis situation and explosions, especially following the New York explosion by the U.S. police to implicate the Muslims in that country, seems to be standard procedure on the part of the intelligence bodies of the West and Israel.

Radio Views Upcoming Husayn-Rabin Meeting

NC1607083894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton announced yesterday that King Husayn of Jordan and Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are to meet in Washington on 25 July. During this meeting, the so-called Middle East peace talks at the highest Jordanian and Israeli levels will resume under the supervision and participation of America.

Political analysts believe that although secret meetings took place between Jordanian and Zionist officials in the past too, the Jordanian leaders' announcement of readiness to meet overtly with the Zionist leaders is considered a change in the Jordanian statesmen's behavior which will possibly strengthen the compromise process in the region. And if the Jordanian king signs a compromise pact during this meeting, Syria and Lebanon will be under more pressure to adhere to the American process of compromise and of a Middle East solution, and the infiltration by the regime occupying Jerusalem in the region and in the Arab world will further increase.

These analysts believe that even though Jordan's adherence to the process of compromise with Israel will strengthen this process among the regional governments, it may also result in the intensification of a dissenting popular process because of Jordan's structural situation. Jordan's fate has been linked with Palestine and the Palestinians for a long time. Half of the Jordanian population are ethnic Palestinians and many of them are refugees from the territories occupied in 1948. Thus, basically speaking, the issue is not one of including discussions on their territory and their fate on the agenda of the peace talks. This population, the majority of which has strong Islamic tendencies, constitutes the active and intellectual strata in Jordanian society and apart from the armed forces and key positions, its presence in all the administrative-economic institutions in Jordan is noteworthy.

When the spokesman for Jordan's Islamic Action Front, which has 16 seats in the 80-seat parliament, tried to declare the day on which the Jordanian and Zionist heads will meet a mourning day, it was the most explicit and the first political reaction by the opponents of compromise, one which will probably expand in the near future.

Political Situation in Algeria Examined

NC1607094194 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Jul 94 pp 15, 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Algeria—Under the Boot of the Nationless Military"]

[Excerpts] Three days after the announcement by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] of its readiness for new elections in Algeria, the Algerian prime minister responded harshly to this request and underlined the need to continue the suppression of the people. Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, who was visiting Cairo, said that the Muslim combatants would continue to be crushed.

The announcement on the readiness for new elections shows the FIS's strong confidence that it will once again win the elections; and the strong reaction by the government naturally manifests the Algerian regime's strong confidence that it will suffer a disgraceful defeat. [passage omitted]

Algeria is living through restless days. The people's fundamental opposition to the regime have reached the explosive stage. What is happening in the Islamic country of Algeria today is a manifestation of the strong rage of a nation that has suffered many years of oppression and treason by the ruling regime and has now decisively risen to cut off the hands of arrogance and of its domestic minions. And it is better for the despotic and illegal Algerian Government to sincerely accept the fact that it is facing the entire nation and that it lacks the least bit of popular support. There is only one reality in Algeria, and that is that the nation has decided to exercise its will in determining the fate of the country and to establish the ruling structure that it wants. This movement is so extensive that it cannot be harnessed in any way.

The Algerian dictators will not be able to effectively resist the determination of the Muslim and risen nation of Algeria in a world from all the corners of which cries of Islamism are being heard.

A system that has been unable to present a well-founded justification to prove its legitimacy, despite all its propaganda efforts of the past two years; a system that has lost its luster even in the eyes of its masters and mentors; and a system with the sole record of murders, massacres, and the bloody suppression of the Muslim Algerian nation, is not fit to continue its illegitimate rule any longer.

Daily Previews Possible Changes in North Korea

NC1507103894 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 10 Jul 94 p 12

[Unattributed political commentary: "Kim Il-song's Demise"]

[Excerpts] The demise of North Korean leader Kim Il-song comes two weeks before a historic meeting between the leaders of the two Koreas was scheduled to take place. This meeting would be significant for two reasons: first, the differences between the United States and North Korea over the latter's nuclear installations; and second, the issue of Korean reunification.

There is a strong possibility that the North Korean leader was the last vestige of a breed of leaders who were products of the Cold War and the world's political, economic, and ideological divisions. Kim Il-song clearly favored centralization, and therefore retaining the status quo will be not be an easy task for his successor.

The world's political realities and the upheavals that have occurred in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union have called the future of centralized systems into question. It is rather difficult to envision that Kim Il-song's successors will adopt the same policy upon which he so unnecessarily insisted.

Therefore, the demise of the North Korean leader has brought the country to the brink of new developments. Sooner or later, it will grapple with its two main problems—that is, differences with the United States over nuclear installations and the issue of Korean reunification—in a different and more realistic manner than in the past.

It is very likely that the Geneva talks between the two countries' delegations will be temporarily suspended and that the North Korean delegation will go home, so that it can return with a new and more coordinated stance and more options for the next round of talks.

After reassessing things, the new North Korean leadership will enter into talks with South Korea and the United States. It will certainly distance itself from the intransigence that marked Kim Il-song's policies, but one must not expect undue haste in doing so. The scheduled meeting will probably be postponed until a more opportune time. It appears that prospects for reunifying the two Koreas will gradually become brighter than they were when Kim Il-song was in power.

Kim Il-song's successors will encounter new opportunities and will approach the issue of Korean reunification of the two Koreas on an international level with a clearer understanding of political realities on the Korean Peninsula. It is anticipated that with the demise of the 82-year old North Korean leader, the country will tread a new path of reforms and his successors will not insist on his thinking. They will have greater freedom of action when they enter into talks with South Korea and the United States and when they initiate political and economic reforms at home.

In any case, one should not imagine that there will be an immediate change in resolving the issues, as Kim Il-song's son has been at his father's side for many years and has unofficially and unobtrusively been involved in administering the country. However, the fact is that, due to the centralized power structure, all final decisions on important matters have been made by the North Korean leader himself. Especially with regard to Korean reunification, Kim Il-song's proclaimed stances are of such immense importance that it is difficult to imagine that the new leadership will easily make fundamental changes in them.

According to Kim Il-song, the concept of Korean reunification is an inevitable and revered national aspiration which cannot be easily waived; only the modus operandi will be discussed. South Korea's concept of reunification is different than North Korea's. It can be deduced that the differences were greater during Kim Il-song's lifetime, to the extent that all optimism was ruled out. However, recently it had seemed that the two sides were making efforts to reconcile their views and not to insist on their differences. [passage omitted]

In any case, with Kim Il-song's demise, it appears that the coefficient [zarib] of confidence has risen, resulting in a brighter outlook for unification of the two Koreas. It is expected that the new group of leaders will have a more realistic understanding of national and international issues. In addition, the views of other countries such as Japan, the United States, the PRC, and Russia will also be affected with regard to Korean reunification. This is because after reunification, a new economic and industrial rival with the pooled resources of the two parts of the country will emerge, boosting competition in a tangible way. Therefore, the aforementioned countries should not be too keen to celebrate the reunification of Korea.

* KEYHAN Special Report on Mashhad Bombing

94LA0202B London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] **Fifteen bombs of great explosive power have entered Iran.**

In Mashhad and Tehran, the names of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are being mentioned.

Informed sources in Tehran and Mashhad report that the government is hiding the truth about the bombing in the shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad. In their opinion, the accusation of the People's Mojahedin in the bombing is merely propaganda ploy. At the same time, both the government officials and the people know that the bombing was directed by certain hands outside the country.

According to this report, a high-ranking intelligence and security official of the province of Khorasan, possibly the director general of information and security, will be dismissed, recalled to Tehran, and seriously questioned. The report adds: "According to reliable sources, this explosion was the work of the Sahabeh army of Pakistan. The Sahabeh army is a very extremist group that according to the Tehran regime is fed and supported by Saudi Arabia. The Sahabeh army is accused by the Tehran regime of having a hand in the murder of Sadeq Ganji, the director of cultural affairs of the Islamic Republic in Pakistan. Also, Tehran regards the murder of the daughter of the new cultural director of the Islamic Republic in Pakistan to be the work of the Sahabeh army, which has been able to arrange the escape of the person accused of the murder of Sadeq Ganji. The Islamic Repbulic has frequently asked Pakistan to ban the Sahabeh army and dismiss its officials. But the Government of Pakistan has not yet agreed to this.

Prior to the start of Moharram and the mourning ceremonies, the Sahabeh army announced that it will not be silent during the mourning of Imam Hoseyn and will take revenge for the destruction of the Sunni mosque in Mashhad.

Despite all this, why has the Islamic Republic Government kept silent about these facts to hide the truth? Informed sources answer that in this case, the issue will have more expansive international dimensions and will cause relations with Saudi Arabia to worsen and also bring relations with Pakistan to a crisis point. It should be pointed out that in the Hajj ceremonies, the efforts of the Islamic Republic to hold the "cleansing from infidels" has brought Saudi Arabia to the ultimate conclusion that the promises and arrangements of the officials of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic cannot be trusted.

According to reliable reports, immediately after the bombing of the shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad, the Supreme National Security Council held a session and the decision was made there to blame the People's Mojahedin organization for the bombing, because raising the name of the Sahabeh army and dragging Saudi Arabia and Pakistan into it would compromise the international position of the Islamic Republic even more.

The same report adds: So far, 15 bombs with strong explosive power have entered Iran, and the bomb exploded in Mashhad is one of them. Several days ago, after the bombing in Mashhad, a very strong bomb was discovered and neutralized on Iranshahr Street in Tehran.

So far, only a few of the bombs imported into Iran have been discovered.

* Skirmishes in Baluchestan, Mashhad Bombing

94LA0202D London KEYHAN in Persian
30 Jun 94 pp 1, 9

[All quotations, parentheses, and ellipses as published]

[Text] Following the explosion of the powerful bomb in the shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad, during which dozens were killed and injured, it is reported from various cities of Sistan and Baluchestan that severe fighting started among the Baluch tribes and the Guards, and dozens of people on both sides have been killed.

The areas of Khash, Barud, Sarbaz, and several other regions have been announced as the location of fighting in which heavy and light weapons were used. An unverified report indicates that the Baluch tribes have not kept alive the guards they have taken prisoner.

While some reports from Iran, resorting to information from diplomatic sources, consider the fighting in Sistan and Baluchestan last week to be a follow-up to the explosion of the bomb in Mashhad, Va'ez Tabasi, the deputy administrator of the Imam Reza shrine, in an interview with domestic and foreign reporters refuted any sort of involvement of the "Sunni extremists" in the explosion and associated it with the People's Mojahedin organization. Tabasi said: It is true that rumors in Mashhad say that the extremist Sunnis were involved in the bombing, but the information gathered indicates that the People's Mojahedin were responsible for this bombing. In response to the question of reporters as to why the bombing is being blamed on the People's Mojahedin, he referred them to the Information Organization.

The English-language newspaper, TEHRAN TIMES, went even further and wrote: The People's Mojahedin have done the bombing on the instructions of Iraq in order to forever block the efforts toward the normalization of relations between the two governments that began last fall.

The government television of the Islamic Republic last week showed one of the "repentants" affiliated with the People's Mojahedin who was arrested and jailed two years ago while trying to enter Iran through the Iraq border. He said that his mission and that of his group was to place a bomb in Mashhad, but they did not succeed because he was arrested and the others in his group were killed.

'Ali Mohammad Besharati, the minister of the interior, who had also gone to Mashhad with a delegation, spoke in an interview about the arrest of a number of people in connection with the explosion of the bomb in the shrine of Imam Reza. Besharati described the bomb that was exploded in the shrine to be 4.5 kg, the time of the explosion of which was set at 10 minutes.

In the meantime, one of the readers of SALAM in a letter to the newspaper criticizes SALAM and asks why the newspaper repeats the statements of the government in regards to the identity of the perpetrators of the bomb, adding: "These accusations of the government do not even stick to the Mojahedin."

Another reader writes to SALAM: The accusations by the government against the Mojahedin are not true, because they have religious beliefs and would never bomb a sacred place. But the editorial article of the above-mentioned newspaper has attacked the Mojahedin and written that, given their history, the Mojahedin are capable of such action.

Musavi-Tabrizi, the prosecutor of the Islamic Republic, has announced the arrest of members of two terrorist teams of the People's Mojahedin who were sent to Iran to bomb the shrine of Imam Reza and engage in terrorist acts. Tabrizi said: We have no doubt that this slaughter is the work of the Mojahedin; the day of the incident coincided with the 10th anniversary of the announcement of their armed struggle against the Islamic Republic.

'Ali Fallahian, the minister of information and security of the Islamic Republic, in a letter to 'Ali Khamene'i, writes: The perpetrators of the explosion have been identified, and soon all will be arrested.

According to the Tehran press, an explosives expert has stated that the bomb exploded in the shrine of Imam Reza was about 5 kg and was "very strong." He added that these kinds of bombs, due to their complexity and also because of their "extraordinary sensitivity," can only be used by military and intelligence organizations, and ordinary people are neither capable of building nor using them.

Immediate Postponement of the Visit of the Iranian Delegation to Iraq

The visit of a delegation from the Islamic Republic to prepare for the visit of 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Baghdad was postponed for an indefinite period of time. Some Tehran media have spoken of "cancellation." JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI considers the cancellation of this visit to be connected to the explosion of the bomb at the shrine of Imam Reza.

'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic, speaking in a gathering of the foreign ambassadors residing in Tehran, also involved "some of the European governments." He said: "If not for the support of certain European countries for these terrorist mini-groups (People's Mojahedin)..., this bloody tragedy would not have happened.... Obviously, placing facilities at the disposal of such a terrorist group will have such tragic consequences, and all those who somehow have shared in the perpetuation of the activities of such terrorist movements must feel guilty in regards to this tragedy."

Denial by Mojahedin and the Communique of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP]

On the other hand, according to a report by the French news agency from Nicosia, the People's Mojahedin organization denied any involvement in the bombing. The People's Mojahedin called the claim of Musavi-Tabrizi, the prosecutor general of the Islamic Republic, that the individuals affiliated with the People's Mojahedin organization who have been arrested have confessed to placing the bomb as "pure lies" and blamed it on the agents of the regime itself.

The KDP of Iran in a "press communique," which was published in Europe, also wrote about the explosion: "Considering the black report card of the regime...it can be said that such a criminal action is only possible at the hands of the clerical regime...." The KDP pointed out that the regime by "accusing others of these crimes" has both an excuse to arrest and slaughter its opponents and also divert the attention of the people from the problems that the clerical regime is facing.

Dismissal of Masses of Afghans

The Ministry of the Interior of the Islamic Republic has announced that 540,000 Afghans who have had six-month residency permits and whose permits have now expired will "gradually" leave Iran, but informed sources from Mashhad report that the "transfer" of Afghans from Iran, especially Khorasan, is not as voluntary as the regime pretends, and the government will resort to force in this regard.

The Islamic Republic has announced the number of Afghans in Iran to be 1.8 million. Of this number, 300,000 have acquired families in Iran and have permanent residency permits. The Ministry of the Interior has announced that if they also want to leave Iran "voluntarily," "all necessary facilities" will be placed at their disposal.

* New Appointments Made by Ministry of Health

94LA0207B Tehran SALAM in Persian 26 Jun 94 p 2

[Text] The public relations office of the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education reports that Dr. Hasan Firuzi, a member of the faculty of the Pasteur Institute, was appointed executive secretary of the Medical Commission of the Scientific Studies Council by Dr. Mohammad Pezhuhi.

* More Appointments Made

94LA0207C Tehran SALAM in Persian 26 Jun 94 p 2

[Text] The public relations office of the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education reports that Dr. Seyyed 'Alireza Marandi, minister of health care, treatment and medical education, appointed Dr. Mohammad Javad Namazi as supervisor of the Sabzevar College of Medical Sciences and Health Care Services and he appointed Dr. Majid Hoseyni as supervisor of the Gonabad College of Medical Sciences and Health Care Services.

Pakistan

Five Nationals, Others Arrested in Afghanistan

BK1807132594 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 18 Jul 94 p 8

[Text] Peshawar—President Rabbani's government in Afghanistan has arrested five Pakistanis and a number of Arabs and Iranians. The arrested Pakistani youths belong to various areas of Punjab and are associated with the Islami Jamiat-i-Tulaba student organization and some religious institutions. According to Kabul Government sources, all of them were arrested when they were fighting along with the opposition faction against Rabbani forces. The five Pakistanis arrested by the Kabul Government are: Javed Akhtar, Abid Salim, Nadim Shahzad, Sayeed Ahmad, and Mohammad Aziz. Although all of the arrested youths are from Punjab, Nadim Shahzad can speak Pashto as well. He says that he is from the Mianwali area.

Kabul Government sources say that the youths claim that they had been called to take part in training for the jihad in Kashmir, but were later sent to Kabul where they took part in the fighting for Hekmatyar. One of those arrested is an Arab national, Farhat Nur, who had been staying in Pakistan. An Iranian named Hasan Timori has also been arrested.

Government sources in Kabul say that President Rabbani's government has informed the respective government authorities that the arrested foreigners will not be released, because, according to the Rabbani government, they are war criminals. Meanwhile, a delegation led by General (Alauddin) of Afghanistan has arrived in Peshawar, which will hold talks on behalf of the Rabbani government with Afghan leaders staying in Pakistan.

Afghan Embassy Denies Reports of Indian Military Aid

BK1707161494 Hong Kong AFP in English 1158 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Islamabad, 17 July (AFP)—Afghan president Borhanoddin Rabbani's government has expressed concern over Pakistani newspaper reports alleging Indian military assistance to Rabbani's forces, the Afghan Embassy here said Sunday [17 July].

The embassy released an Afghan foreign ministry statement which said publication of "such irresponsible accusations, speculation and rumours" would have a "negative effect" on Afghan-Pakistan relations.

The relations with India were based "purely" on the policy of strengthening ties with all countries of the world and "attracting" Indian cooperation for reconstruction of Afghanistan, the statement said.

Underlining the special relations with Pakistan forged during the Afghan jihad, the statement said continued publication of "false" claims by the Pakistani press would have a "negative" impact on the ties.

New Delhi has been accused by Afghan rivals of Rabbani of supplying arms to the forces loyal to the president.

Leghari Confers With Chinese Defense Minister

BK1807144894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Chinese Defense Minister General Chi Haotian called on the president, Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, and exchanged views on international and regional affairs. President Farooq Leghari thanked China for its support at critical junctures of our national existence and said that he looks forward to greater economic and technical cooperation in the years to come. The Chinese defense minister apprised the president of various Chinese peace initiatives to its various neighbors. He said that China wanted peace in the region and deplored the hegemonic designs of certain regional powers. Gen. Haotian agreed with President Leghari that a just and equitable solution must be found to the Kashmir problem.

The Chinese defense minister visited the joint staff headquarters in Rawalpindi and met the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee, General Shamim Alam Khan. Gen. Haotian remained with the chairman for some time and discussed with him matters of common and professional interest.

PRC Defense Minister Meets Counterpart

BK1807160294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Chinese Defense Minister General Chi Haotian called on President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari in Islamabad today and exchanged views with him on international and regional matters. President Leghari thanked China for helping and supporting Pakistan at the critical stage of its national existence and said that economic and technical cooperation between the two countries will be maximized in the years to come. The Chinese defense minister informed the president of the peace efforts being made by the PRC with its neighbors. He said that China desires peace and security in the region, and it condemns certain regional powers' designs for hegemony. Gen. Haotian agreed with President Leghari that a just solution to the Kashmir issue should be found.

Chinese Defense Minister Gen. Chi Haotian today called on Federal Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani in Rawalpindi. During the meeting, Mirani said that the cooperation between Pakistan and China in economic, technical, defense production, and other sectors reflects their mutual trust and confidence. Reciprocating, Gen. Haotian said that the friendship between the two countries has withstood all of the tests and will further strengthen with the passage of time. He added that occasional exchanges of visits by delegations will enable the two countries to understand each other. Later, the distinguished guest was briefed on Pakistan's security environment and cooperation in defense production.

Bhutto, Haotian Discuss Missile Expansion

BK1807121594 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 18 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, 17 July—Defence Minister of China, Chi Haotian called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Sunday [17 July]. The Chinese defence minister who is heading a high powered defence delegation discussed bilateral and regional issues and matters pertaining to cooperation in various fields. Haotian was highly appreciative of the internal and external policies of the government. He also recalled the efforts of Z.A. Bhutto in strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Chinese defence minister said, China and Pakistan helped each other throughout crucial times and the relations between the two countries are a fine model of friendship which will continue to grow in future.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto apprised the Chinese defence minister of the ongoing freedom movement in Kashmir. She also highlighted Pakistan's point of view on nuclear non-proliferation in the region.

The two sides also discussed Indian missile and expansion programme and its repercussions on the region.

Haotian affirmed that China to continue its support to Pakistan on all regional and international issues.

Earlier, Minister of National Defence of People's Republic of China, Gen. Chi Haotian, at the head of a high-powered defence delegation arrived here today.

Federal Minister for Defence, Mr. Aftab Shahban Mirani and Mrs. Mirani warmly welcomed the guest, Madam Jiang Qing Ping Haotian and members of the delegation. Others present to receive the honoured guests included Pakistani enjoy to China Mr. Khalid Mahmood, Chinese Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Anquie Guting [name as published] and other officers of Chinese embassy.

The delegation is visiting, on the invitation of Mr. Mirani, who had visited China last December.

On his arrival, Chinese Defence Minister thanked Mr. Mirani for his kind invitation and warm welcome accorded to his delegation.

Gen. Chi Haotian said China and Pakistan were close and friendly neighbours enjoying a long traditional friendship, for over 40 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, be it in the international affairs or in our respective national economic development, China and Pakistan have always been sympathising, supporting and helping each other. The two countries have been enjoying friendly cooperation in many fields and have achieved satisfying results. The Sino-Pakistani ties have stood the test of time and it is all-weather, and enduring relationship, he elaborated.

He recalled his earlier visit to Pakistan in 1989 and said it left a very deep impression on him and expressed the hope that the current tour would be a complete success.

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